

(409)
THE

CRITICAL REVIEW.

For the Month of December, 1760.

ARTICLE I.

The Modern Part of an Universal History, from the earliest Account of Time. Compiled from Original Writers. By the Authors of the Antient Part. Vol. XXIV.

NO period of the French history is more interesting than the reign of Charles VII. with which this volume commences. By shewing the absurdity of continental conquests, it affords the best political instructions to the British reader, who, from hence, will perceive the impossibility of Great Britain's ever rivalling her inveterate enemy with her land-forces, or of succeeding in her schemes against France, otherways than by due application to her natural strength, her marine. The spirited conduct of Henry V. with a variety of fortunate incidents co-operating, enabled him to reduce that kingdom. The nobility of France claiming, at that time, a kind of independency, some of them were always ready to enter into schemes with foreign powers against their sovereign. This facilitated the conquest of France : by this means Edward and Henry were successful in their enterprizes ; but the inconstancy of such allies rendered the fruits of their victories uncertain. The nobility had no sooner gratified their resentment, or served some particular purpose, than they veered round, and as strenuously opposed as before they had espoused the conquerors. It was this conduct in the reign before us, that first retrieved the affairs of Charles when reduced to the utmost despair. Charles VII. though he obtained the surname of Victorious, was by nature the least fitted for a warrior. He was mild, gentle, affable, but steady in adversity. His obliging disposition gained him friends ; but his abilities, by no means, rendered him formidable to his enemies. All the events at the beginning of

VOL. X. December 1760,

E e

his

his reign were unfortunate: he was opposed by the duke of Bedford, regent of France, and uncle to the young Henry VI. an able soldier, and prudent statesman. He lost the battle of Crevant, and was deserted by almost all the nobility of weight and distinction; but still he was served by a few faithful able persons.

Charles (say our authors) had known great difficulties and distress before; to say the truth, he had known nothing else since he knew any thing; but he was never so closely pressed, or with so little hopes of succour. The countries that owned his authority were already exhausted of men and money; the English were not only possessed of the best part of the kingdom, but, by attacking him on the Loire, and debarking an army in Guienne, which was absolutely in their power, might destroy him in one campaign. He was himself very young, and, which was worse, void of all education; and yet he was so far from despairing, that he invited other men to share in his hopes. The earl of Buchan had been stiled constable of the Scots, most of whom were slain in successive actions; the king, to console him, and to draw greater succours from the same country, gave him the sword, and created him constable of France; he bestowed likewise the lordship of Aubigny upon Sir John Stuart of Darnley, on whom he afterwards conferred the county of Evreux. This had a good effect; the duke of Albany concluded an alliance with him on the terms which he proposed, and sent over the lord Douglas with six thousand men, to whom Charles gave the duchy of Touraine, and declared him lieutenant-general. The duke of Milan sent him six hundred horse, and a thousand cross bows; many of his own subjects raised considerable corps at their own expence; by this means he brought a considerable army into the field, leaving the operations to the discretion of his generals, which he might do with greater propriety, since, strictly speaking, he had not either experience or troops of his own.

King Charles was soon afterwards defeated at Vernueil, in which battle, the constable and earl of Douglas were killed. He was now reduced to the brink of despair: he had no army, few fortresses, fewer generals, and was totally without resources. His subjects were so exhausted, that no violence could have extorted much; but instead of attempting this, Charles took satisfaction in sharing their miseries, lived after their manner, and demanded nothing. This conduct strongly attached to his interest his few remaining friends, and many abandoning their estates, came to join their shattered fortunes to his. They were received

received with open arms, caressed, applauded, and promised suitable returns, when the king should have it in his power. In a word, his condition was now so low, that his affability was his sole prerogative, and the reputation he had established of gratitude, the only remnant of revenue: but we soon find the fortune of this prince assuming a different aspect. The duke of Bretagne, and his brother the earl of Richmond, are drawn over to the king's party, and the latter made constable of France. The duke of Bedford is likewise under the necessity of returning to England in this critical juncture of affairs, and from his absence Charles deduces great advantages. Soon afterwards the English were baffled at the siege of Orleans, chiefly remarkable on account of Joan d'Arc, surnamed the Maid of Orleans, whose enthusiasm and pretensions to inspiration, first roused the courage of the French soldiers, depressed by a long series of defeats and misfortunes. Henceforward every project succeeded with Charles; he was crowned at Rheims, received at Paris, and acknowledged as sovereign of France. Henry VI. was forced to conclude a treaty with him: he soon afterwards broke it, and lost footing in France. The character of Charles VII. is thus drawn by our authors:

‘ He was surnamed the Victorious, or, as others say, the Well-served; from which last appellation, in all probability, modern historians have derived their opinion, that the great successes of his reign were wholly owing to his ministers and his generals; whereas contemporary writers, and even those who flourished in his son's days, ascribe these great actions to the king himself, and particularly remark, that the high prosperity of his arms commenced at a time when he took the resolution of commanding in person. It has been even matter of doubt, whether his indolence and little regard to business in the beginning of his reign, was not the effects of a refined policy, which induced him to affect a character, that, though seemingly unworthy of a king, was, notwithstanding, very suitable to his circumstances; since, in the middle and latter part of his life, those who lived in his court, and had a share in the management of affairs, assure us, that he was a prince of assiduous or perpetual application, perfectly acquainted with every branch of the administration, and remarkably tender of the persons and properties of his subjects.

‘ His concerns were in so low a situation at his first accession to the throne, that he had not money to pay for a new pair of boots; and he was so little feared, that the tradesman who brought them, being told so, carried them away. He had good

officers; he had many of the nobility who adhered to him; but most of them had their particular views, in which, if he had crossed them, they had been lost. It is no wonder, therefore, that he bore many things which no other king would have done. At his coronation there was not one lay-peer; but, for the sake of preserving state, he nominated six lords, who represented them. Through the whole course of his reign, every incident, every conjuncture, was turned to his advantage; at first by his ministers, in process of time, and by the lessons they taught him, by himself. For this reason he drew as much profit from his adversity as from his prosperity. Under the former he laid aside his great courts because they were too expensive; he prohibited the currency of any money in his dominions but his own; in a word, he availed himself of necessity, while his territory was very small, to bring in those alterations which he thought for the advantage of the crown; and he made use of his power, in proportion as it became more extended, to establish these new usages through the whole kingdom. The coin was never so much debased as in his time; and yet under him it was no great evil; for, by raising the nominal value beyond any thing that had been attempted, he drew money into the countries that owned his authority, which, but for that expedient, had never been seen; and, when this was no longer necessary, he very wisely laid it aside. The length of the war gave him a fair opportunity to interdict private quarrels; that is, deciding them by the sword. When they afterwards attempted to turn this upon him, by alledging, that the war had so reduced them, that they were in no condition to raise troops for his service; he took them at their words, and not only dispensed with their raising troops as the constitution required for the present, but for the future: so that, without his permission, they could never raise troops at all. Instead of these troops he brought in regular forces, for the payment of which he introduced the taille; and, by promising to put his coin on a right foot, and keep it so, he levied this with the good will of his subjects, but without the consent of his states. It was the gentle use of his prerogative that established it; he made likewise some necessary alterations in the manner of administering justice; but he did every thing with such an apparent view to the public good, and was so very tender of the lives and properties of his people, that though he altered or acted against all law, he was never considered as a tyrant. The clergy were more attached to him than to the pope; for he took nothing of them himself, and defended them from being stripped by the pontiff. He was, in general, very grateful; and, though the case of James Cœur is said to be an exception to this, yet, upon reading the record of his

his conviction, as we may call it, the reader may probably hold the king excused; since, whether he was guilty or not, the appearances against him were strong, and the clamour of the people great; one of the charges against him being this, that, to extend his own commerce, he had scarce left another merchant in the kingdom, and had acquired most of his wealth by applying the public cash and credit to his own profit. Excellently served by the men, Charles was yet more fortunate in the other sex. His consort, Mary of Anjou, loved him tenderly; and, as a proof of it, gave him little trouble in his amours, and great assistance in his business, in which the king always consulted her. Yet her mildness and modesty were so conspicuous, that it appeared she rather courted his favour than acted from any motives of ambition.

Lewis XI. succeeded to the crown, and was a prince of a very different character. He seized on the duchy of Burgundy, carried on a war with the archduke Maximilian, and came to a rupture with Edward IV. of England, who had meditated the invasion of France upon the invitation of the French nobility. Nothing besides extremely memorable occurs in the reign of a prince, rather cunning than sagacious, covetous by nature, generous through policy, ungrateful, ungracious, unsentimental, illiberal, but yet possessed of ability, and the art of rendering his government formidable and respectable.

He was succeeded by his son Charles VIII. who, without the talents of a statesman or warrior, made a great figure in Europe, by the long wars he carried on in Italy, and the formidable leagues formed to expel the French from the kingdom of Naples. The following character of Charles is not altogether consonant to the ideas of the best historians of his own country. 'He had nothing pleasing about his person, except his eyes, and discovered no great abilities, which might, however, be very well ascribed to his total want of education; for that he did not want parts is very apparent. He was kept pretty strict by his sister, the dame de Beajeau, who had much of her father's parts and temper, and who governed with great capacity in his name, tho' at his accession she was but twenty-two years of age. He was quickly weary of the strictness of her tutelage; and, by the advice of George D'Amboise, bishop of Montauban, cardinal and prime minister in the next reign, would have made his escape, in order to have gone to the duke of Orleans; but the person intrusted with the letter, to make his own fortune, betrayed them all. The situation of public affairs obliged the dame de Beaujeu to make much use of the king's person, as well as of his name; and this made it neces-

fary to bring him into the council, and to accustom him to feats of arms. He was naturally inclined to reading, especially the history of his own country, and this inclined him to business, and to gain a thorough knowledge of his own affairs; but the young people who were about him took great pains to draw him from his studies, and to render him, like themselves, attentive only to pleasure, in which they succeeded but too well. He is allowed, tho' the worst educated, to be the best bred king that ever sat upon the throne; insomuch that those who knew him best, affirm he never spoke a disobliging word in his whole reign. He was from hence surnamed the Affable and the Courteous.' The truth is, Charles's person was despicable, his understanding contemptible, but his good-nature amiable and engaging.

The next prince, Lewis XII. duke of Orleans, was deservedly called the Father of his People, the most glorious title of a monarch. A saying of his ought to be transmitted to the latest posterity. Being reminded of an injury done him by la Tremouille, before he attained the regal dignity, he answered, 'That it did not become the king of France to revenge the quarrels of the duke of Orleans.' His whole conduct was perfectly consistent with the magnanimity of this expression. Lewis was all-merciful and humane; but he was likewise spirited, bold, and resolute. He restored military discipline, curbed the insolence of officers, and retrenched the tyranny of magistrates. His behaviour to the university, and preachers at Paris, who had taken the liberty of censuring his government, displayed his spirit, and shewed that he would be obeyed. They were chastised with equal severity and justice. His wars in Italy were not very fortunate; and it is some diminution of his reputation, that he acceded to the league of Cambray, and obstinately persisted in promoting the intrigues of pope Alexander VI. the most ambitious, crafty, cruel, and turbulent prelate that ever filled the papal throne. His ingratitude to Lewis at last opened the eyes of that monarch, and engaged him in a war with the pontiff. He is described in these words by our historians:

'After having extricated himself from so many difficulties, and brought his affairs into so good order, whilst he meditated yet greater things, Lewis found his infirmities increase, and his health decay. His constitution was much broken by the gout, against which his only preservative was a very regular manner of living. He thought himself obliged to depart from this, in complaisance to his young queen, and his affection, his too great affection, say the writers of those times, for the most sprightly and the

the most beautiful young princess in Europe, hastened him to his grave. He died in the night following the first of January, in the fifty-fourth year of his age, and in the seventeenth of his reign. Perfection is not to be in mortals, and those are justly esteemed flatterers who ascribe it to kings; but in this the severest of the French historians unanimously agree, that more royal virtues, with fewer defects, were never more conspicuous in any of their princes than in Lewis XII. France, say they, was never more happy, more rich, more quiet, or more submissive, than under his reign. Justice was never better administered; wiser laws were never made, and hardly ever so well executed. Military discipline was never so exact, or so severe, but, at the same time, the troops were punctually paid. In succeeding times the quartering of them in provinces was esteemed a grievance, but, in the time of Lewis, it was considered as an advantage, and the province solicited it in that light. His family and his court, the populace and the nobility equally admired him, and unanimously called him their father, the title with which he was most pleased, and which he made it the study of his life to deserve. He began his reign with abolishing impositions; and at the time of his death he had diminished above half of them. He was obliged sometimes to raise extraordinary taxes; but when he signed edicts for that purpose, he did it with tears. His very misfortunes endeared him to his subjects; for he might have maintained his conquests in Italy, if he would have raised large sums upon his people; but he thought any light when compared with that of their affections. He was thought a little too saving; and, in the beginning of his reign, his subjects took the liberty of expressing this in satires, and even of ridiculing it on the stage. The king knew it very well, and, which was singular, it gave him no offence: he said, upon that occasion, what ought to be ever remembered, 'I had much rather my subjects should laugh at my parsimony, than weep at their own oppressions.' The custom in France then was for the criers to proclaim the demise of persons of all ranks, as they did his in these words; 'The good king Lewis, the father of his people, is dead:' at once the most artless and the most finished panegyric.

The next monarch had more brilliant, but less solid qualities than his predecessor. Francis I. was brave, generous, liberal, a lover and patron of science. For almost his whole life he was engaged in unremitting war with the emperor Charles V. the most powerful, able, and politic potentate in Christendom. The reader may take the character of Francis in the words of our authors:

* This monarch was tall and tolerably well-shaped, had an high open forehead, brisk eyes, a long nose, a fine complexion, and his hair black. He was very expert in his exercises, very brave, and took great pleasure in feats of arms. At the second marriage of Lewis XII. he gained great honour in a tournament. At the beginning of his reign, in some diversions of this sort, captain de Lorges, lord of Montgomery, tossing a firebrand, it fell upon the king's head, by which he was so burnt, that he was forced to be shaved, and ever after wore his hair short, and his beard long, which became the fashion. In the battle of Pavia he flew with his own hand the last heir male of the famous Scanderbeg. He had great natural parts, as appears from several pieces of poetry of his composing, which are yet extant. At his meals, in his recreations, and at night, before he went to sleep, he had persons who read to him, and it was by this means that he gained so general an acquaintance with the sciences. He was magnificent in every thing, and not only introduced the belles lettres, but a taste for the fine arts. He built many royal palaces, such as Fontainebleau, St. Germaine en Laye, Chambard, the castle of Madrid in the wood of Boulogne, and he had laid the foundation of the Louvre. In the first part of his life he was profuse, but however it was in a noble way; his palaces were richly furnished; he had as fine jewels and finer pictures than most of the princes of his time: but what cost him the most was his pensions to great men, that is, to men of superior talents; for there was not an able officer, or an accomplished scholar, of whom he had any knowledge, but he either gave, or at least offered, him a pension. After he became infirm, he applied himself with more assiduity to his affairs, and grew so good an œconomist, that, at the time of his death, he had disengaged his whole domain, had four hundred thousand crowns in his coffers, and a quarter's revenue untouched, which his successor received.

* Amongst all the foibles of Francis, his love of women was the greatest: he was extremely smitten with Mary of England, the wife of his predecessor, and chancellor du Prat is said to have owed his fortune to the good advice he gave him, not to suffer his passion to defeat his succession. In his youth he had a mistress whose name was Cureau, by whom he was thought to have been the father of Stephen Dolet, who suffered an infamous death for impiety. By another lady, whose name is not mentioned, he had a son, who took the name of Vilecouvin. His amour with Frances de Foix, countess of Chateau-briant, made a great noise; and some say her husband, after a long imprisonment, put her to death: but this seems to be disproved by

by her monument, which shews she was reconciled to him and died in 1537. However this be, he had another gallantry which was equally fatal to himself and his mistress; she was a married woman, and the husband's resentment induced him to give her a disease, of which she died miserably, and the king, after languishing for many years, owed his death to the same cause. His last mistress was Ann de Pisseleu, who, at her coming to court, was stiled mademoiselle d'Helli. She had a prodigious ascendancy over Francis, tho' he would have made the world believe that nothing criminal ever passed between them.

Henry II. the succeeding monarch, was of a disposition not very different from his father, tho' he pursued other maxims. The following is his character:

'This great king, to whom the French writers, at least some of them, have given the surname of *Belliqueux*, or, Warlike, was indeed of a martial disposition, and fortunate enough in some of his expeditions, particularly those against the English, by which he recovered Calais and its dependencies, and kept them by a well-timed negotiation. He was magnificent in his court, rather than in his buildings; he was not very nice in his dress, tho' it has been remarked, as an evidence of his finery, that he wore silk stockings. He had some tincture of learning, and was a patron to men of letters, more especially poets; he is blamed for suffering his court to sink into every kind of vice and luxury, under the specious titles of gallantry and politeness; so that he spent incomparably greater sums in gratifying his humour, and by an ill-timed liberality, than his father had done under all his necessities.' Henry died of a wound received in the eye at a tournament.

His son Francis II. married to the beautiful and accomplished Mary queen of Scots, inherited the crown, but not the virtues of his father. Francis was weak, pusillanimous, and, all his life, the tool of the Guises, who screened the most ambitious, wicked, and cruel designs, under the sacred name of the sovereign. Happily for France he died, after a short and inglorious reign, leaving his crown to Charles IX. a minor.

In this reign France was torn with civil dissensions and religious factions. The terrible massacre of the Protestants, will always make the government of Charles IX. be remembered with horror; yet did this prince derive from nature great and good qualities. He possessed (according to our historians) an extensive capacity, a very retentive memory, much sagacity, a wonderful penetration, and great solidity in judgment. He

spoke easily, pertinently, and with dignity. He loved learning and learned men, more especially poets, and was the patron of the great Ronfard. There is a saying of his, with respect to them, which has been deservedly remembered. 'Princes, (said he) ought to deal with poets, as jockeys with their horses, keep them sleek, and in good case, but not let them grow fat.' He had a very fine voice, sung well, and wrote verses himself. He also wrote a treatise upon hunting, which has been since published. He had great personal courage, was very sober, for having once drank a little too much wine, and being guilty of some extravagancies, he never tasted it after. He was also naturally modest, and not much inclined to women. Let us now see how a prince, with so many good qualities, came to make so bad a figure. He had two ill qualities that are seldom found united, he was a deep dissembler, and yet passionate to a degree of madness. He loved hunting immoderately; and from delighting in the blood of beasts, came to spill that of men without concern. He seldom spoke without swearing, a vice which he caught from the count de Rhetz, his mother's instrument in corrupting his manners. He studied mankind early, and knew them well. He was as easily provoked as he was hard to be appeased. He had a violence in his temper which at once shewed itself, and was heightened by his diversions; for, besides his passion for hunting, he was a great lover of tennis, and would also work frequently at the forge, being an excellent gunsmith. His impetuosity appeared even in his dancing, with which he fatigued himself and his whole court. He had one amusement singular, and which spoke his character; he coined false money with his own hands, and was never so well pleased as when he cheated people. The debauchery of his, or rather of his mother's court, ruined his morals and his temper. The necessity he was under of managing opposite factions, taught him to disguise his sentiments, and his frequent disappointments inspired him with deep resentments. Hence it is said, and said with truth, that, at the age of twenty, he excelled Tiberius in address, and was not less cruel than Nero. After the massacre on the eve of St. Bartholomew, he had a fierceness in his look, and a colour in his cheeks, which he never had before. He slept little, and never sound. He waked frequently in agonies, and had soft music, with the voices of his pages, to compose him again to rest. He dissembled in his last moments, expressing great kindness towards his brother, whom he hated, and much respect to the queen-mother, whom he intended to have sent into Poland, to make a visit to her beloved son: but this was in some measure excusable, since it arose from his tenderness for his consort and daughter, who were to be left in their hands.'

Henry

Henry III. was king of Poland at the death of his brother. On the first advice of an event that raised him to the throne of France, he posted from Poland in disguise, passed through Germany and Italy, and arrived safe in France. Henry had not long wielded the sceptre, when he was persecuted by the Guise faction, which determined him to assassinate the duke of Guise, in a manner . . . idious and artful, as proves how little his true character before this action was understood, and before he had thrown off the tutelage of his mother, the politic and ambitious Katherine de Medicis. He was assassinated by one Clement, a Jacobin friar, an ignorant half-witted creature, distracted with the enthusiastic discourses every day thundered from the pulpit.

To him succeeded Henry IV. king of Navarre, the pride and glory of France, the most magnanimous, politic, valiant, generous, and sagacious prince, that ever wielded the sceptre of this kingdom. Faction itself was forced to acknowledge the virtues of Henry; Protestants and Papists are unanimous in his praises; even malice could insinuate nothing worse than that he was incontinent, addicted to gallantry and women. Every one is acquainted with the manner of his death, by the hands of the vile assassin Ravillac; and most of our readers have perused the best account of his government, in the masterly writings of his minister, the duke de Sully. We shall therefore think it sufficient to give a specimen of our authors talents in drawing, from the portrait they have exhibited of this glorious prince.

Henry was of a middle stature, rather tall than short, his eyes lively, his nose aquiline, his complexion ruddy, his hair brown in his youth, but began to turn grey at thirty-three. He had an excellent constitution, and, notwithstanding his free manner of living, enjoyed a good state of health, except that he was attacked sometimes by the gout. He was very gallant, and an exceeding good officer. He was naturally familiar, but when it was necessary, could put on a very majestic air. Upon great occasions he shewed that he understood magnificence, tho he did not love it. In general, his speech was frank, and his habit plain. He was naturally eloquent, wrote well, and with great ease. He rallied very agreeably, and he bore not only that but even reproofs without impatience, provided he thought they were well meant. His fortitude enabled him to overcome, and by his dexterity he often avoided danger. He loved his subjects, and did many things for their advantage: amongst others he encouraged manufactures and commerce, countenanced by his authority the sending ships to the West; and granted

ed

ed letters patent for establishing an East-India company. With these great qualities he had also great failings, amongst which his passion for women was certainly the greatest. However, he did not suffer them to govern him, to recommend or discard his ministers. He was likewise too favourable in regard to duels, against which, tho' he made laws, yet he treated with contempt such as paid respect to them. He had a great passion for play, which had terrible consequences, as it rendered this destructive vice fashionable, which is alone sufficient to throw a kingdom into confusion. He also loved money, but then he knew how to use it; and having observed how much his predecessors suffered from the want of it, he was desirous of avoiding their misfortunes by a contrary conduct. He had, besides these failings, a mixture of levity and vanity in his temper; but it appears from his letters, that he knew his own foibles as well as any body, and that, how ill-soever he succeeded, he studied to mend them. He affected popularity, and he acquired it; he dissembled without malice; on the contrary, he pardoned so sincerely, that his bitterest enemies, at the time of his death, were become his firmest friends.

The volume concludes with the reign of Lewis XIII. whose character we find thus described by our authors.

‘The king, having taken these steps, had nothing to do but to die, which he did leisurely, and with amazing calmness and fortitude. Seeing the duke of Beaufort, and some others, who he thought did not love him, in the room when the declaration for settling the regency was read, he said to one who was near him, ‘Those people are come to see if I am making haste in my journey.’ One day, opening the windows of his chamber that looked towards St. Denis, he said, without the least emotion, ‘Yonder’s the place where I shall lodge a great while: my body will be well shaken, for at present the roads are very bad.’ His distemper was a slow fever, which wore him gradually to skin and bones. One morning he called monsieur de Pontis to him, and unbuttoning his shirt, shewed him his arms, emaciated to the last degree: ‘Here, Pontis, (said he) take hold of my hand; see what arms these are that belong to a king of France.’ About two hours before he died, seeing Dr. Seguien, the queen’s physician, near his bedside, he made a sign to him to approach, then gave him his arms: ‘Seguien, (said he) feel my pulse, and tell me how many hours I have yet to live; but feel it carefully, for I should be glad to know as exactly as possible.’ The doctor did as he was bid, and then told him he thought he might live two or three hours at the most.

most. The king then joining both his hands, and looking stedfastly to heaven, said softly, 'Well! my God, I consent with all my heart.' He deceased on the 14th of May, 1643, in the forty-second year of his age, and the thirty-third of his reign, dying on the day of his accession. An excellent writer has given us a very just character of him in a few words: he was as valiant as Henry IV. but his valour was without heat and without eclat, and no way proper for the conquest of a kingdom. Providence placed him therefore precisely where it was proper for him to be placed; sooner, he had been too weak, later, too circumspect; son and father of two great kings, he fixed the throne, yet tottering, of Henry IV. and prepared the way for the wonders of the reign of Lewis XIV.'

As nothing particular distinguishes the composition and style of this volume from the preceding, both evidently written by the same hand, it will be unnecessary to add to our remarks in the last Number of the Review.

ART. II. *A Military Essay. Containing Reflections on the Raising, Arming, Cloathing, and Discipline of the British Infantry and Cavalry; with Proposals for the Improvement of the same. By Campbell Dalrymple, Esq; Lieutenant-Colonel to the King's own Regiment of Dragoons. 8vo. Pr. 5s. Wilson.*

FROM the great variety of military treatises lately published, and the few alterations introduced into the military discipline, we may naturally conclude, that all the schemes of reformation proposed are impracticable, or that the superior officers are too strongly attached to the ancient methods of exercising, to admit of the most salutary innovations. We have lately perused a great number of judicious writers, upon different branches of the art of war; we have seen many of the evolutions now taught, demonstrated faulty, useless, and even productive of confusion in the day of battle; but we have not heard, that the most absurd parts of our discipline have been laid aside by authority, or any particular system adopted, except in a few regiments, where the superior officers happen to be men of reading and observation. In other countries, especially in France, the discipline of the army forms a considerable part of the care of the legislature. Hardly an ingenious project fails of meeting with countenance, and a fair trial. Lewis XIV. broke through that stubborn superstition of his officers for the old customs; it was by his particular mandate, that bayonets were substituted for pikes, and, contrary to the opinion of half

half the military men in the nation. Experience has demonstrated the rectitude of the alteration. The appointing a certain number of inspectors and directors, whose business it was to review, examine, and report the exact state of military discipline, was perhaps one of the most useful institutions of Lewis. It was by this means the world was astonished at seeing armies, unwieldy from their bulk, pass through their exercises with all the exactness and accuracy of a single regiment, and preserve order and discipline in the midst of rapine and confusion. We should be far from wishing to see this commercial nation take a military turn; but while a standing army is deemed essential to the security of Great Britain, while it is thought necessary to engage our land-forces abroad, and to stake the interest of the kingdom upon their conduct, the discipline of the army will always merit attention. Our manual exercise has been long condemned by the most experienced officers, who have proved in action the inutility of all those ostentatious motions made on the parade. Why may not a soldier load and fire as gracefully and effectually, without going through a variety of frivolous motions, that cannot possibly be observed in battle, or altogether laid aside, without blundering, unless he be previously taught? Many of the evolutions now in use, particularly the methods of firing by platoons, relieving a disordered first line, forming into squares and columns, &c. have been justly condemned; others more specious have been offered, but we believe never tried or adopted. The Prussian exercise, indeed, has been introduced by some of our officers; but this regards only the curtailing certain unnecessary manœuvres, and has no reference to the general order of battle, and those evolutions upon which victory or defeat chiefly depend. We shall, however, waive our own reflections, to lay before the reader some account of our author.

With a considerable share of reading, observation, and understanding, we will venture to pronounce, that the writer before us has not avoided obscurity, or attained the happy art of conveying his ideas with the same force to his readers, as they may have impressed himself. This we chiefly attribute to the want of method and disposition, so absolutely necessary in all treatises upon science and the arts. His work indeed is divided into parts and chapters; but every division contains a variety of subjects, which bear not the smallest relation to each other. For instance, we find the exercises of the field jumbled with the duties of the camp, and a sudden skip made from the cloathing or recruiting of a regiment, to the discipline on the parade. We see the author making a rapid transition from the Roman order

order of battle, and the Greek phalanx, to the perquisites of officers and pay of the British soldiers. But we will refrain from censure, where there is abundant room for applause. These objections we have hinted, rather as cautions to a writer, who may prove useful to his country by future publications, than from any desire of displaying our own critical sagacity, by fastidious cavilling, and minute criticism.

As the variety of subjects touched upon, renders it impossible for us to give a review of the whole volume, we must content ourselves with an extract or two, as specimens of our author's capacity as a politician and soldier. The following proposal is made for recruiting the army, which, though liable to objection, is however ingenious.

‘ It hath already been observed, that the thoughts of conquering France being laid aside, and the two kingdoms of England and Scotland falling under the dominion of the same prince, had thrown a damp upon the military spirit of this nation. The civil wars of Charles the First revived it for a while, and gave a glorious, though unhappy instance, of that love of liberty and valour, which has always distinguished these nations. A calm succeeding to those tempestuous times, a luxurious and expensive way of life followed, which plunged the barons into debts; whence they had no way so ready to extricate themselves, without diminishing their property by alienations, as the turning the remaining military service, their vassals owed them into money, by way of rent, lease, or fine, to pay their creditors. Thus vassalage was at an end, and the service and defence of the kingdom left to those who would voluntarily undertake it, and failing of a sufficient number of such, recourse was had to a press-act, the insufficiency of which, *has already been demonstrated*. But by this means the kingdom was deprived (though a military man I must acknowledge it) of its natural and best support, without a proper provision being made to supply the loss of it, by instituting some other prudent method of answering the exigencies of the state; which encreasing with the power of our enemies, are at last become too great for the feeble resources of volunteers, and the more feeble one of impressed men. If any doubt should arise as to the truth of this assertion, let examination be made into the returns of the last and present year, and I believe it will be found that the infantry was, and is far from compleat.

Having exposed the deficiency of our plan for recruiting, it is incumbent on some body well versed in the laws, to frame one, so, if it can be accomplished, as without interfering with
our

our civil liberties, to answer the vast demands which our numerous armies now require ; but lest that should be thought too arduous a task, we will venture to propose a scheme which would effectually answer that purpose.

‘ By the act of parliament now putting in force for establishing a national militia, this one good among many others will certainly result, namely the ascertaining the number of men able to bear arms ; on which the number of standing forces must be regulated ; for where we attempt things above our strength, there can be no resource. Without doubt there are people sufficient to cultivate the lands, carry on the manufactures, and recruit the army, in such a populous country, even if the age of those pitched upon to serve, is limited from 17 to 25 years, when they enter the service. Lists of all such being in the hands of the lord-lieutenants of counties, they might (under such regulations as the parliament should think proper, to prevent an abuse of power) be obliged, on receiving orders from the king and council, to send such a number of recruits as are wanted to the regiment, which bears the name of the country : who should be obliged to serve five years for a foot soldier, and seven for a dragoon or trooper. The size of a foot soldier might be fixed from five feet five, and that of a dragoon from five feet eight inches, and a trooper five nine inches, to six feet one inch high ; the lord-lieutenants sorting the different sizes to the different services. A soldier having served his term of years, to have the privilege of settling and exercising his former trade, wherever he pleases ; and in case of accidents or misfortunes in the service, to reap the benefit of his majesty's royal bounty in Chelsea hospital. That the regiment should nevertheless raise as many men as they can, as volunteers ; but always to demand and have every year, some men from the counties, in the most profound peace, lest the law should grow obsolete.

‘ That the people should serve on being ballotted for ; or substitutes might be allowed, where they are of good character and their persons answered.

‘ That there should be no exemption from serving to any person, who did not possess wealth sufficient, to make it unnecessary for him to exercise any trade, or handicraft ; and the more there are of those who will waive that privilege, the better for the service, and greater security to the country, against any fears that the army made, sooner or later, the instruments of tyranny.

‘ The

The advantages which must result from such a plan being put in execution, are manifest; and we will venture to affirm, that fewer troops will be necessary on all occasions, as well to oppose in the field, as to maintain our garrisons, from the army being better composed than they are at present. The opposition it would meet with from the people would be trifling and short; and it might be the means of reclaiming them from that licentiousness into which they are fallen, and of establishing that subordination, so necessary in every well constituted government. We should want fewer troops from having great and speedy resources; and if a militia should still be thought necessary, it might be composed of veterans, instead of raw, undisciplined peasants.

The following method of marching by any number of columns to front, flank, or rear, and of expeditiously changing the front upon any sudden attack upon either flank, will convey no unfavourable idea of our author's military talents, or unentertaining specimen to our readers of the same profession.

The general having taken every measure necessary for security, as if he were really in danger, by scouring the country, taking out-posts, having out-lying pickets, and giving orders to the horse to patrolle all night; may then give out orders for the operations of the next day, which ought to be as full and comprehensive, as if given to sixty, instead of six, battalions.

At the hour appointed, the general puts himself at the head of the center column, and the whole, taking their motions from him, march off by platoons, from the left of the front battalion, and are followed from the right by the rear battalion; the grenadiers being detached before with the horse, to scour the country, to cover the motions of the army, and the forming of it, when necessary. The officers commanding the flank columns, should be careful to preserve proper intervals from the center, to dress to it, and, as the general is there, to repeat every signal, and take every motion that he gives. Having marched in this manner, the general orders the drums to beat *the troop*, which with the army is always the signal to form battalion, and *to arms* the line. The battalions form, which will shew the advantage of marching to the front always from the center, as they will now find themselves in such a position as only to move forward; and the line is formed, by both the battalions which composed the column inclining outwards from each other, upon beating to arms.

The general calls the adjutants together (supposing every alteration as another day's march) and orders the army to march to

the front in two columns, the 2d and 7th battalions making the heads of the columns. He puts himself at the head of the right column, and both march off from the center of the battalions, followed by the battalion next the center of the army, then that upon the flank, and so alternately, till the flank battalion of all, supposing ten instead of three, in the column, closes the line of march. As to the front they should march in, that depends upon the country and roads, which will determine whether it is by platoons, grand divisions, wings, or battalions. Having marched a little way, the grenadiers and horse being always advanced for the purpose already mentioned, orders may be given to form the line. It will be unnecessary on all occasions, especially when the column is large, to beat first the troop, and then to arms, as the battalions will take up their ground, and form the line better by marching up to it by platoons, than by first forming the battalion and then moving up; for example, *To arms*, the head of the columns halt, and the platoons or divisions, according as they marched, doubling up from the first battalions; the front of the other two, or ten if there were so many, incline outward, forming the first platoon upon the leading battalions, and at a proper interval from them, the rest of the platoons marching up briskly, and dress to that, which closes the line. The army should now advance and retreat in line, the whole dressing to and keeping intervals from the center. This is most particularly requisite to use troops to, as so much depends upon doing it well; the difficulty lies solely in the execution and want of opportunity, for it can only be obtained by dint of practice: the general should therefore now improve it to the utmost, as it will be to no purpose to proceed till the army is perfected in that essential part of their duty.

Many other judicious proposals, curious remarks, and sensible observations, occur in this treatise, which, with all its blemishes, in point of good writing, we heartily recommend to the gentlemen of the army, and our military readers.

We cannot take leave of this performance without remarking, that the Essay on military Honour, annexed by way of appendix, is, to common readers, the most entertaining part of the whole; and the Proposal for establishing a military Order, such as we apprehend would excite a spirit of emulation, stimulate courage, and be attended with the happiest consequences.

ART.

ART. III. *A Treatise on Canine Madness.* By R. James, M. D.
8vo. Pr. 4s. 6d. Newbery.

THE subject of this treatise is at the same time so interesting and obscure, that every attempt to obviate a calamity so dreadful, and elucidate the nature of a distemper, the most shocking to humanity, bespeaks our candour, and merits our applause. Infinite are the medicines recommended as specific against canine madness; they have been confidently ushered into the world under the sanction of names eminent in physic; their virtues have been attested upon almost indisputable authority, yet has experience proved them inadequate, and they have, in time, dwindled into contempt and oblivion. We should not, however, for this reason relinquish all hope of ascertaining an effectual method of cure, as fruitless, and beyond the reach of human understanding. There appears nothing supernatural in the operation of this contagion, from the saliva of mad animals; like several other species of infection it may be explained on natural principles, deduced from experiment and observation. The effects of mercury in this distemper, might long since have taught an obvious and scientific rationale, could men be satisfied with the simple causes before their eyes, and not strain and torture the brain for others more subtle and remote. Descartes had recourse to vortices, *materia subtilis*, and a plenum, for the solution of phenomena easily explained by Newton, on the elegant principle of gravitation.

Dr. James, rejecting the theory suggested by Dr. Mead, in his essay on poisons relating to canine madness, substitutes one of his own, equally liable to objection; more judicious, perhaps, with respect to principles, but reared with infinitely less address, skill, and elegance. Dr. Mead has at least given an air of plausibility to a very dubious system; our author has almost rendered improbable a very specious doctrine. It is indeed an example, that it is possible to feel the conviction of truth, without being able to demonstrate it, and to shew critical sagacity in the practice of medicine, without being a philosopher. Dr. James clears the way to this theory, by comparing the similar appearances that occur in the small-pox, communicated by inoculation, and the infection conveyed into the habit by the bite of a mad animal. It would have been more to his purpose, had he compared the latter with the venereal infection, which experiment demonstrates capable of being communicated by inoculation. An eminent physician in London caught the distemper by means of a slight wound in his finger; and we have it from

a gentleman of the faculty, of unquestionable veracity and ability, that he twice succeeded in the experiment. This, indeed, our author afterwards mentions, affirming that the canine and venereal infection are propagated in the same manner, though he seems to be ignorant of the possibility of communicating the venereal taint, by incision in the fleshy and muscular parts of the body.

Having laid down these premises, the doctor is of opinion that the poisonous saliva adhering to the froth of the mad dog, is immediately communicated to the fat lodged in the cells of the membrana adiposa, and thence conveyed to the mass of blood, to the liver, infecting the bile, and altering the benign qualities of this important fluid, into a virulent destructive poison. Hence those violent efforts to discharge from the stomach that viscid *atrabilious sordes*, which irritates the sensible membranes, and thereby possibly produces that direful train of symptoms consequent on the bite of a mad dog. This notion, it must be confessed, is extremely ingenious, were it more clearly illustrated. It affords room for abundance of curious physiological reasoning; but our author contents himself with a few general remarks, and contemptuous misapplied strictures on the theory of a gentleman, whose memory will be respected by the learned, when perhaps that of *his critics* will sink with their writings in eternal oblivion. We hope our readers will excuse this warmth; we respect the talents, and applaud the assiduity of our author to promote the public good; but he ought to have avoided reflections that savour strongly of personal resentment, and treat with delicacy the fame of a brother physician, who was certainly an ornament to letters and a friend to mankind.

It is expected when a new theory is proposed, that it shall sufficiently solve all the phænomena relative to the subject of the theory. No such matter is attempted by our author, who is infinitely too loose and desultory to afford satisfaction. He affirms, indeed, the facility of accounting for the progress of the *virus*, and its operation from the part where it first entered the body, through all the scenes to the ultimate catastrophe; but either the doctor thought it too easy to merit an explication, or he found it too difficult and hazardous to venture descending to a detail of particulars, and has, therefore, contented himself with a few general conjectures. In a word, we entirely agree with our author in respect to the probability of his hypothesis, that the canine venom is received and propagated by the cellular membranes; but though ascertaining the seat of the disorder may facilitate a cure, we apprehend the doctor might
safely

safely have withheld his treatise, until he had more clearly arranged his ideas, digested his subject, and demonstrated the truth of his principles, by applying them to the solution of difficult symptoms, and confirmed them by experiments, either on brutes or rational animals. Few persons incapable of close physiological reasoning, will at present adopt the hypothesis: it was the more necessary to illustrate and confirm it by examples.

As to the method of cure by mercury, internally exhibited, the doctor justly claims to himself the discovery. This is placed beyond doubt by the date of his publications upon the subject. We must, however, acknowledge, that the Turpeth mineral, the preparation recommended, would seem to us the most improper form of administering mercury, except where it was necessary to discharge the atra bilious viscid bile from the stomach by a rough emetic. But to excite a salivation, we would prefer unction; and if an alterative be intended, a variety of other preparations: the quantity indeed prescribed, is too great to act as an alterative or diaphoretic. It would be unnecessary to dwell on this particular; the public is already acquainted with Dr. James's method of cure, which several years since appeared in a pamphlet, and lately in the news-papers. Here some instances of its success on brute animals are related; but we think the few trials made on human patients inconclusive.

After abundance of familiar chat upon the theory and cure of canine madness, our author proceeds to an account of all the nostrums prescribed in this disorder; laughs at Baglivi, Valetta, and Mead, for crediting the old woman's tale about the tarantula; and then relates the following story, in honour to the memory of his own grandfather.

'Glanvil relates a very remarkable history of the daughter of a widow Stiff of Welton near Daventry, in Northamptonshire, that was bewitched in a very extraordinary manner, p. 263, of the edition above quoted. He mentions one Mr. Robert Clark, (a small orthographical error for Clerke) as a kind of evidence of the truth of this bewitchery, who, he says, was ~~hat~~ (hit) with stones at the house.

'The town of Welton I know better than I do Bruton-street, where I now live; and Mr. Robert Clerke, here meant, was my mother's father, who resided at a village, at the distance of about two miles. The truth of the fact is literally thus.

'A great clamour was made in the country about this girl, who was said, and believed to be bewitched. My grandfather

took a great deal of pains to come at the bottom of the imposture, and accomplished it; upon which, as a justice of the peace for the county, he committed the girl, and all the family, to the house of correction.

‘ By what I have said above, I may possibly incur the displeasure of those old women, whether in petticoats or breeches, that retain an implicit faith in witchcraft. If it will give them any satisfaction, I will fairly confess, that I sincerely wish there were such beings as witches; because it would be well, if the devil was more employed in playing ridiculous pranks, and had less leisure to corrupt the morals of mankind.

‘ But alas! the race of witches are almost extinct in England; and in Scotland, I am told, one single law has contributed a great deal to the extirpation of warlocks and sorceresses. It is, that in every parish, where one of these is discovered, the parson, whose duty it is to teach his flock better, has a heavy fine levied upon him. This ordinance is not only very wise, but very just. Wise, because it will most certainly answer the end intended; and just, because if a person receives a salary to oppose and battle the devil, if he has neither courage, ability, nor sanctity sufficient to repel his insolence, in the district under his immediate care and inspection, he merits a diminution, at least, of that reward, to which a stricter attention to his duty, and more success, would intitle him.’

All this, it must be confessed, is shrewd and waggish, though nothing more to the purpose than that it ekes out the volume. However, that the doctor may not triumph in his discovery of the non-existence of the tarantula, we can assure him, that there now resides in London an Italian gentleman, of unquestionable learning, sense, candour, and veracity, who declares that he has seen the animal, and the effects of the poison; that he has taken great pains to inform himself of the fact, and is only deterred, by his unacquaintance with the English language, from publishing his thoughts upon the subject, which he has already digested in the Italian.

ART. IV. *Critical Essays on Dramatic Poetry.* By Monsieur de Voltaire. With Notes by the Translator. 12mo. Price 3s. Davis and Reymers.

ENGLISH readers are extremely obliged to the judicious translator of this little volume, for collecting and publishing in their language the most ingenious essays of one of the best

best modern critics. Voltaire has no where displayed more taste and genius, than in these prefatory discourses and literary correspondences. He writes to kings with the humility of an inferior, without descending from the dignity of philosophy, and that equality established among all ranks, by science. Here he has raised himself above the little prejudices of situation, party, and opinion; he thinks like a citizen of the world, cherishes virtue, and decries vice, of whatever soil or climate they are the produce. No writer ever thought with more freedom than Mr. Voltaire; his criticisms are bold, they are generally just, always ingenious and genteel: he never disputes, but with the decency of a gentleman, and that peculiar delicacy which convinces, without irritating his opponent. When we consider our author's address as a polemic, the moderation of his sentiments, and his lively inoffensive wit as a critic, we are astonished at the number of his enemies; but censure is the tax ever levied upon superior merit. Who would imagine that the author of *Mahomet*, and the *Henriade*, dramatic and epic performances, which do honour to modern poetry, would be condemned for espousing murder and assassination on account of religion; that the same writer should, on other occasions, be accused of indifference to all religion: such are the contradictions into which men are led by prejudice!

No man ever studied the French stage with more accuracy than Mr. Voltaire. In his youth he resigned himself wholly to the muses, wrote for the theatre, and greatly amended the taste of the public. He was the first who ventured to trespass on the cold correctness deemed essential to French tragedy, contributing equally to move the passions by terror and surprize, and by the harmony of numbers. Voltaire, though he still retained many of his national prejudices, received great benefit from studying our Shakespear, whom he admires with all his faults, and imitates in his errors. The tombs, ghosts, bloodshed, and horror of his *Semiramis*, sufficiently evince this assertion. Had our author never perused the works of that prince of the English drama, we should probably never have seen a performance so contrary to the genius of the French stage.

As Mr. Voltaire's poetical works, and critical observations on the tragic scene, are in the hands of every reader of taste, we shall give his remarks on comedy, as a specimen of the performance before us. The *Prodigal Son* is offered by our author, in the editor's name, as the first French comedy, written in verses of ten syllables: 'this novelty (says he) may perhaps induce some other person to chuse the same metre. It will cause some

variety on the French stage ; and he who finds out new sources of pleasure and entertainment, has a right to meet with a favourable reception.

‘ If a comedy should be the representation of manners, this play deserves that name. It contains that mixture of gravity and mirth, that succession of ridiculous and pathetic events, with which the life of man is variegated. Even the same accident is sometimes productive of all these contrasts. How many families may we observe, in which the father scolds, the love-sick daughter weeps, and the son turns both into ridicule ; while the other relations variously partake in the same scene ! What is laughed at in one apartment, draws tears from the company of the next. The same person has often laughed and cried at the same thing, in the space of a quarter of an hour.

‘ A very respectable lady, kneeling by the bedside of one of her daughters, who was given over, and surrounded by the rest of her family, used often to cry out, in the bitterness of grief ; *My God, restore her to me, and take away all my other children !* A gentleman, who had married another of her daughters, went up to her, and pulling her by the sleeve, *Pray, madam, says he, do you reckon your sons-in-law in the number ?* The grave, yet droll manner, in which he pronounced these words, had such an effect on the afflicted mother, that she left the room in a fit of laughter ; none of the company could refrain from doing the same ; and the patient, being informed of the story, laughed heartier than any of the rest. We do not mean to conclude from thence, that every comedy should contain both pleasant and affecting scenes ; there are several very good pieces, where nothing but gaiety appears ; others are entirely serious ; some, where there is an excellent mixture of both ; and others which melt us into tears : no species should be excluded ; and were I asked, which was the best, I should certainly answer, “ that which is best treated.” It would perhaps be agreeable to the taste of this reasoning age to examine in this place, what is that kind of pleasantry, which makes us laugh in a comedy.

‘ The cause of laughter is one of those things which are better felt than understood. The admirable Moliere, Regnard, (who is sometimes equal to him) and the authors of so many beautiful pieces which we possess in our language, were content to excite this pleasure in us, without ever accounting for it, or imparting their secret to the world.

‘ I think I have remarked that those sudden fits of laughter which are often raised in the course of a play, are generally the consequence of some mistake ; Mercury taken for Sofia ; elder
Wou'd-

Wou'd-be, for young Wou'd-be; Crispin making a will under the name of old Geronte; Valerio talking to Harpagon, of the beauties of his daughter Eliza, while Harpagon imagines he is talking of the beauties of his strong-box; Pourceaugnac, concluded to be out of his senses, from the beating of his pulse; mistakes and errors of this kind, always excite a general laughter.

‘Harlequin seldom makes us laugh, but when he is guilty of an oversight; and it is on this account that he has so deservedly acquired the name of Blunderer.

‘There are comic scenes of another kind; and there are other degrees of pleasantry which create a different delight; but I have never observed what we call the *heartly laugh*, either at the play-house, or in private company, but upon occasions nearly similar to those I have mentioned. There are other ridiculous characters which please us in the representation, without causing that unbounded mirth.

‘The Gamester and the Grumbler, though they give inexpressible delight, yet seldom cause that particular kind of pleasure, which makes us *ready to burst our sides*.

‘There is the ridicule intermingled with vice, which we are extremely pleased to see exposed; but which seriously delights us. A dishonest man can never make us laugh; because, towards producing laughter, a certain portion of gaiety is requisite; and gaiety is ever incompatible with sentiments of contempt and indignation.

‘Indeed, we laugh at the representation of *Tartuffe*; but then it is not his hypocrisy, but the mistake of the good old gentleman, who takes him for a saint, that makes us merry. His hypocrisy once found out, we feel other impressions. It would be easy to trace back the sources of our other sentiments; to what excites in us gaiety, curiosity, dramatical concern, emotion, tears. It should particularly be the province of dramatic authors to unfold to us those springs, which they set in action. But they are more employed in moving our passions than examining their origin; they set a greater value on a sentiment, than on a definition; and I am too much inclined to be of their opinion, to prefix a philosophic enquiry to a theatrical performance.

‘I shall therefore content myself at present with insisting a little on the necessity we are in, of introducing something new.

‘If we had confined the tragic stage to scenes of Roman grandeur, it would have, at last, been fulsome. If our heroes
were

were always busied in expressing the pangs of despised love, it would at length become insipid.

O imitatores servum pecus !

‘ The good performances we have had since the time of the Corneilles, the Racines, the Molières, the Quinaults, the Lullis, the Le Bruns, all contain something new and original, which has preserved them from sinking into oblivion. In short, every species is good that is amusing.

‘ Therefore, if such a piece of music does not succeed, if such a picture does not please, if such a play is ill-received, we must never attribute it to its being of a new kind, but to its being worth nothing in its kind.’

We heartily recommend this extract to our comic writers, who seem to think the subject too much exhausted, to sustain with spirit a dialogue of five acts, and therefore confine their genius to farce, interlude, and imitation.

ART. V. *The Life and Character, Rise and Conduct, of Count Bruhl, prime Minister to the King of Poland, Elector of Saxony ; in a Series of Letters, by an eminent Hand. Throwing a Light on the real Origin of the past and present War in Germany, and the Intrigues of several Powers. Carefully translated from the German Original. 12mo. Pr. 2s. 6d. Cooper.*

WE are assured by the editor of these letters of their being a faithful translation from the German original, and, indeed, they bear evident marks of authenticity in this respect. The author appears well acquainted with the history of Saxony, the intrigues of the court of Dresden, and the characters of the chief personages ; but he has dipt his quill in gall, and bartered the integrity of the historian for the zeal and passion of the party-writer. It is a libel on the Empress-queen, the king of Poland, and his prime favourite ; a panegyric on the Prussian monarch, and not a life of count Bruhl that he has published. Crowned heads are treated with that irreverence which certainly merited the fate of this performance at Ratisbon,—that of being consigned to the flames by the ignominious hand of the common hangman. The writer would have shewn more address, and gained more credit, had he smothered his resentments, and expressed himself in those decent terms ever due to the exalted rank of sovereigns ; by openly inlisting himself in the cause of Prussia, we no longer regard him as an impartial arbitrator. We must however confess, that he is spirited, intelligent, and entertaining, a dangerous enemy to the exorbitant power

power of the Saxon minister, and, as far as relates to that nobleman, a just estimator of merit : but count Bruhl's life forms only a small part of the performance ; it chiefly consists of pathetic descriptions of the deplorable situation of Saxony, and violent declamations against the house of Austria.

It is undoubtedly the greatest misfortune of a country to be governed by a minister, equally prodigal and avaricious ; but let us coolly ask the author, whether, in fact, the mal-administration of Bruhl, or the ambition of his hero, brought on the present calamities of Saxony ? Certain papers were said to have been seized in the cabinet of that minister, which proved the intrigues he carried on with the courts of Vienna and Petersburg ; but the authenticity of these papers was denied, and they fell into the hands of the enemy subsequent to the ruin of Saxony. If we examine the several views and interests of the four powers first engaged in the German war, we shall find it probable, that notwithstanding the Empress-queen had unwillingly relinquished Silesia in the last war, and might be desirous of again recovering that valuable dutchy, it was not the proper season for the attempt, when Prussia was at the height of power, governed by a prince active, warlike, penetrating, jealous, and supported by the finest army in Europe. Could the court of Dresden propose any thing by an attack upon a monarch, who must necessarily, in self-defence, make Saxony the seat of war, and by that means destroy all the advantages which could be expected from the spoil of his dominions ? or could the Czarina hope, that the house of Austria would be instrumental in giving her footing in the empire, and thereby establishing a balance still more formidable than that of Prussia ? On the other hand, the king of Prussia had all the reason in the world to expect, that the Empress-queen would not always sit down contented with the loss of Silesia ; and probably apprehended, that secret practices were in agitation, to wrest from him an acquisition, ceded indeed by treaty, but founded upon violence. What was the most likely means to ward off a blow, which one day must strike forcibly ? The answer is too obvious ; and this we mention from motives of justice, in vindication of count Bruhl, falsely taxed by our writer as the author of the three last invasions of his country. The laws of nations allow, that his Prussian majesty should provide for his own security, that he should absolutely lay hands on the electorate of Saxony, had that court been a party in the supposed confederacy ; but let us consider whether policy did not likewise dictate this measure, supposing Saxony neutral, and designs formed by the house of Austria upon Silesia. In this case we must fairly acquit the Saxon minister, of the heavy charge
of

of being instrumental in the ruin of the electorate, and the cause of all the calamities, which, like the vengeance of heaven, have poured down, without remission, on the heads of this unfortunate people.

Another powerful argument may be urged in his favour from his vast possessions in Saxony; in what manner he acquired them is another question: certain it is he would not wantonly throw them away, and subject his sumptuous palaces, unnecessarily, to all the horrors of war. But it is easy to assert hardily; more difficult to prove satisfactorily. Reasoning is not the talent of our author; he abounds in lively sallies, pleases the imagination, but seldom attempts conviction. The reader will be delighted with a variety of pretty anecdotes, moral reflections, and entertaining excursions from the subject. If he expects a political history of the German war, and genuine memoirs of count Bruhl, he will be disappointed: the writer no more resembles an historian or biographer than he does an epic poet.

ART. VI. *The History of the Roman Emperors, from Augustus to Constantine. By Mr. Crevier, professor of Rhetoric, in the College of Beauvais. Translated from the French. Vol. VIII. Illustrated with Maps, Medals, and other Copper-Plates. 8vo. Pr. 5s. Knapton.*

WE finished our review of the seventh volume of Mr. Crevier's history, with the death of Commodus, a monster of iniquity. This begins with the reign of his successor Pertinax, who had raised himself from the meanest condition to the imperial throne. The same persons who had deprived Commodus of his life, placed the diadem on the head of his general, who had already by his conduct equalled, or even surpassed the splendor of the imperial dignity. After a short reign of three months, he perished in a conspiracy of the prætorians, leaving the following character:

‘Pertinax was certainly one of the greatest princes that ever sat upon the throne of the Cæsars, though the shortness of his reign did not permit him to shew his talents. The senate and people were at liberty to say what they thought of him, in the reign of Severus; and they then made his eulogium, with acclamations proceeding from their hearts, and dictated by truth. ‘Under Pertinax (cried they) we lived without uneasiness, and were exempt from fear. He was a good father to us, a father to the senate, and a father to all honest men.’ The emperor
Severus

Severus pronounced himself his funeral oration; and the following is, according to a fragment of Dion Cassius, which seems to have been extracted from that discourse, the picture which he drew of him. 'Military courage easily degenerates into ferocity, and political wariness into effeminacy. Pertinax possessed both those virtues, without any tincture of the defects which frequently accompany them. He was prudently bold against our enemies abroad, and against the seditious at home; mild and just towards the citizens, and the protector of all good men. His virtue was proof against the greatest height of grandeur; and he maintained with dignity the majesty of the supreme power, without ever debasing it by meanness, or rendering it odious by pride. He was grave without austerity, gentle without weakness, prudent without artifice, just without rigour, frugal without avarice, magnanimous without haughtiness.'

This encomium includes all that can be wished. But the reader will remember that it is taken from a panegyrist, and that it requires some restriction with respect to two articles which I hinted at before. In fact, it is difficult to clear Pertinax entirely of the imputation of avarice, of which Capitolinus instances several minute details. He assures us, that Pertinax, after having behaved with integrity and disinterestedness during the life of Marcus Aurelius, altered his conduct after the death of that virtuous prince, and shewed his love of money; that he grew rich on a sudden, by what means was not well known; that he extended his domes by usurpations over his neighbours, whom he had ruined by his usury; that, when general of the army, he sold the preferments in it; and lastly, that, both before and after he was emperor, he carried on a sordid traffic, more becoming his original station, than that to which his merit had raised him. Such a testimony as this seems to be of greater weight than the authority of Herodian, who says only in general, that Pertinax was poor under the reign of Commodus, and that he owed his safety to that poverty.

The second reproach laid to his charge is, that he was more liberal of words than deeds, and apt to suit his speeches to the present circumstances, rather than to the strict rules of sincerity and truth. This fault, which Capitolinus takes notice of, may possibly have deceived that historian himself, who tells us seriously, that Pertinax dreaded the imperial dignity, that he never put on the ornaments of it without a kind of fear and terror, and that he designed to abdicate it as soon as he could without danger. The manner in which Pertinax accepted the empire gives no room to think that the weight of it was disagreeable

able to him. He seems rather to have been desirous and forward to obtain it. His intimations of fear, and of a desire to return to a private life, were, undoubtedly, in him, as in Augustus, a modest language, calculated to set off him that used it.

• His morals were not better than those of his wife; and history mentions a certain Cornificia, whom he was passionately fond of, even at the expence of his reputation.

• Notwithstanding these defects, Pertinax truly deserved great praise, and was the last of that series of good princes, which, beginning with Vespasian, was interrupted only by Domitian and Commodus. We shall find no other worthy of that name, 'till we come to Alexander Severus.'

The death of Pertinax produced a scene still more deplorable. The empire was publickly exhibited to sale by the soldiers, and purchased at an enormous price by Didius Julianus, who possessed not a single quality to entitle him to that exalted dignity. In the space of two months he fell a victim to the rage of those who had been instrumental in his elevation, and had substituted in his room Pescennius Niger. Niger was only in possession of a part of the empire, when the whole was claimed by Severus; a civil war ensued, Niger was defeated, and slain in battle. His character is differently represented by historians; our author seems to incline to that drawn by Spartian, who calls him a good soldier, an excellent officer, a great general, and an unfortunate emperor. After persecuting the adherents of Niger, subduing certain eastern nations, waging war with the Parthians, quashing a rebellion headed by Albinus, and reducing the Britons who had attempted the recovery of their liberty, he yielded up his last breath in that island, where he had performed his greatest exploits. Mr. Crevier speaks of L. Septennius Severus in the following terms:

• Spartian tells us, that Severus was greatly esteemed and regretted after his death, and that the senate applied to him what had been formerly said of Augustus; that he ought never to have been born, or never to have died. This was certainly going too far: and Spartian himself assigns the cause of this too favourable judgment. Severus gained greatly by the comparison that was afterwards made of him with his successors, who, for the space of sixty years, were all, except Alexander the son of Mamaea, rather robbers than princes.

• It must be owned that he was really estimable in many respects. His activity was most astonishing. He preserved tranquillity

quility within the empire, by the firmness and vigilance of his government, foreseeing and providing for all things with an indefatigable attention. He maintained the glory of the Roman arms against foreign nations, and made them be respected to the very extremities of the world.

‘ Most writers call him a great warrior : but I do not see any thing by which he deserved that title. I observed before, that, in the war against Niger, in which his own cause was at stake, he was not present at any one of the three battles which decided that dispute. In the battle of Lyons, where he commanded his troops in person, the victory was a long time doubtful, and seems to have been at last determined in his favour by one of his lieutenants. His exploits against the Parthians and the Britons afford nothing very remarkable. The difficulties which he surmounted were not great, and he miscarried in the siege of Atræ. If the general success in these wars answered his wishes, his forces were so superior to those of his enemies, that the Romans may be said to have conquered, rather than Severus.

‘ His policy in the government of affairs at home often deserved the name of treachery and deceit. He did many things which were of service to the public, but always with a view to his own private interest. I see in him a great deal of cunning and finesse : but nothing elevated, nothing noble, nothing frank and open, nothing generous. He seems to have thought of nothing but himself, and the establishment of his family. For this it was that he increased and strengthened the enormous power of the soldiery, so inconsistent with the welfare of the empire.

‘ It is needless to speak of his cruelty and rapines, which were monstrous, and admit of no excuse. The spirit of revenge was so strong in him, that, out of hatred to Didius Julianus, he abolished the decrees which had been drawn up by his great-grandfather Salvius Julianus, a famous civilian, and author of the perpetual edict under Adrian. But the wisdom and equity of Salvius’s decisions maintained their authority against all the power of Severus.

‘ Another thing which does him no honour, is, his not valuing what was said of him. He that has no regard for his own reputation, is in a fair way to set little value upon virtue.

‘ The most that can be said in favour of Severus, is, that if he deserves in some respects to be ranked among the great princes, he by no means merits a place among the good ones.

‘ His

His private character is likewise far from doing him any honour. We are told indeed, that he was a good and faithful friend: and as a proof of this, writers quote Lateranus, Cilo, Anulinus, Bassus, whom he loved constantly, and whom he loaded with riches. But he was guilty of an unpardonable excess that way in regard to Plautianus, by placing in him such a confidence as rendered him blind to all his faults. Too indulgent as a husband, he kept a wife who dishonoured him by her vices, and who even gave room to suspect her of conspiring against his life. Weak and pusillanimous as a father, he suffered his children to lord it over him. He seems therefore still less estimable as a man, than as a prince. In short, in whatever light we consider him, we find in him more to censure than to praise.

He had some learning: or rather he was a lover of learning and of philosophy. For he had not time to acquire any degree of excellence therein, nor to perfect himself in the Greek and Latin eloquence. An ancient writer says he generally used his mother tongue, which was the Punic. He wrote however in Latin memoirs of his own life both public and private, of which Aurelius Victor praises the style as well as the fidelity. Dion Cassius does not think so favourably of that work. On the contrary, he accuses Severus pretty plainly of having paid little regard to truth in his account of himself: a reproach highly probable, even if it was not supported by the authority of a contemporary writer. Severus endeavoured particularly, in those memoirs, to clear himself from the imputation of cruelty. We may judge by his actions, what foundations his apology could have.

Caracalla, the son of the late emperor, succeeded to his dignities without inheriting one of his virtues. He was a compound of lust, cruelty, and every species of iniquity; his whole life not affording a single action worthy of being transmitted to posterity, except that he embellished Rome with some magnificent edifices. Macrinus, a prætorian præfect, who had been the instrument of Caracalla's death, now assumed the purple, and was acknowledged emperor by the senate. The end of this prince was likewise violent, after he had reigned fourteen months.

He was regretted (says our author) at least when compared with his infamous successor: for Dion Cassius says he did not, in himself, deserve to be loved, and that the effeminacy of his manners, and some acts of unjust rigour, promised a government which would certainly have made every one hate him.

It

‘ It is however certain that he had some good qualities. Capitolinus, who is far from favouring him, ascribes to him a noble plan for reforming the practice of the Roman courts of judicature. He assures us that Macrinus intended to abolish all the rescripts of the emperors, and to make the laws alone the sole authority in the decision of all causes. It seemed to him a great abuse, that the whimsical caprices of such princes as Caracalla and Commodus should have the force of laws : and he observed, that Trajan never would answer by rescripts any petitions that were presented to him, lest what he might think proper to do in particular cases, or for particular persons, should be construed into a precedent, and be extended beyond his intention. The shortness of Macrinus’s reign did not permit him to execute his design.’

Heliogabalus, the supposed son of Caracalla, and the successor of Macrinus, surpassed his father in every kind of folly, vice, and extravagance. He composed a senate of women, put senators to death to enjoy their wives with impunity, sacrificed children to the purposes of magical superstition, pompously celebrated the nuptials of his god with the Venus of Carthage, and committed a thousand other actions which equally displayed his folly, madness, extravagance, and corruption. The following instances are given of his luxury and profusion.

‘ He proposed premiums for such as should invent ragouts not known before. If they succeeded, a silken robe, then esteemed an exceeding rich and costly present, was their reward. If their sauce did not please, they were condemned not to eat any other thing, ’till they had repaired their fault by a better and more happy invention.

‘ His beds and couches were of massy silver ; and on his table were served up dishes of mullets livers, brains of thrushes, and of foreign birds, and heads of parrots, pheasants, and peacocks. Can this be wondered at, when he fed his dogs with the livers of geese, and the lions of his menagerie with parrots and pheasants ? His supper never cost him less than an hundred thousand sesterces, and frequently thrice that sum.

‘ Fond of every thing that was odd and out of the common way, he took a pleasure in making one and the same meal at the houses of five different friends, situated in five different and distant parts of the city. Each of these houses had an entertainment for him, and he went from one to t’other ; so that a repast often lasted the whole day.

‘ If he was near the sea he would not taste fish ; but if he was at a great distance from it, his table was covered with sea-

fish. Sometimes, in inland villages, he treated the peasants with mullets roes. The dearer a thing was, and the more difficult to be had, the more it pleased his palate ; and he even loved to have all his eatables over-rated to him, saying, That his purveyors whetted his appetite by making an extraordinary charge.

‘ It might indeed have been justly said of him, that he knew how to squander away his riches, but not how to give. He often ordered the same sorts of meats as were set upon his table, and equal quantities of them, to be thrown out of the windows. Instead of dry sweetmeats, and other trifles of that kind, which were frequently given to friends to take home with them, Heliogabalus presented his guests with eunuchs, saddle-horses richly caparisoned, coaches or cars with four horses, a thousand pieces of gold, or an hundred weight of silver. When he gave largesses to the people, it was not by distributing money among them, but by leaving to their mercy, to scramble for as they could, whole droves of fatted oxen, camels, stags, &c. This often produced battles, which seldom ended without the loss of several lives, whilst the prince looked on, and thought it a diversion ; for he delighted in mischief, and shewed a spirit of tyranny in all his follies.

‘ He frequently invited the chief men of the city to dine and sup with him, and made them drink beyond all measure. On the other hand, he loved to torment parasites with hunger, ordering their table to be covered with representations of meats made of ivory, wax, glass, or painted wood. Sometimes he stilled them with heaps of violets and other flowers, thrown over them in such prodigious quantities, that the poor wretches remained buried under them, without being able to extricate themselves.’

The late emperor had adopted his cousin Alexianus, who, on this occasion, was surnamed Alexander Severus. Heliogabalus was murdered by the soldiers, for having practised against the life of Severus, who was now raised to the imperial throne. If historians were not unanimous in their sentiments of this excellent prince, his character might be supposed to be drawn by a professed and fulsome panegyrist. He possessed every virtue which could render an elevated station amiable, respectable, and formidable. He was merciful, generous, liberal, learned, and intrepid. Herodian, indeed, disputes his courage ; but Lampridius affirms, that in the battle against Artaxerxes, king of Persia, he equally performed the duty of a valiant soldier and expert commander. He flew to every part of the field, exposed

posed his person to the greatest dangers, encouraged his troops by his words and example, and obtained a complete and glorious victory. After a reign of thirteen years, in the bloom of youth, fell Alexander Severus, a victim to the ambition of Maximin, regretted as the best prince that for many years had swayed the imperial sceptre.

The historian Dion Cassius flourished about this time ; we shall present the reader with the following judgment of his character as a writer.

‘ To him we owe the most regular and best connected historical accounts of any we have from the time that Tacitus fails us : and it would be unjust to compare him to any of the intricate and confused writers of the Byzantine history. But still he is far from equalling the great historians.

‘ He was a native of Nic ea in Bithynia, the son of Apro-nianus, who was at different times governor of Cilicia and Dal-matia. He went to Rome under the reign of Commodus, and distinguished himself there at the bar. After passing through all the inferior dignities, he attained the consulship, probably under Severus. Alexander made him consul a second time, with himself, as we observed before. In the interval, between his consulships, he was several times governor of provinces : consequently the rank he held, and the offices he bore, must have qualified him to write the History of his own Times, if he had had the talents necessary for such an undertaking ; that is to say, prudence to guide and guard him from prejudice, sound criticism to discuss facts justly, and elevation of mind to form a right judgment of them. But it must be owned that these qualities shine little in him. He was one of those easy geniuses, who are fit to write a great deal, because they have no idea of what is fine and excellent, which always costs much time and labour.

‘ We may judge of his turn of mind, from what he himself says of the motives which determined him to write history. He had composed a treatise on the dreams and presages by which the empire had been promised to Severus, and sent this mixture of flattery and superstition to Severus himself, who was highly pleased with it, and returned the author thanks by a long and polite letter. Dion received this letter in the evening, and the next night he dreamt that he saw a Divinity or Genius, which ordered him to write History. He obeyed, and made his first trial on the reign of Commodus, in which he related what he himself had seen. Encouraged by the success of this first fruit of his historical labour, which was well received, he resolved to

write a complete body of the Roman History, from the landing of Æneas in Italy down to his own time. He spent ten years in collecting materials for this great work, and twelve in composing it: a space not too long, considering the many avocations he was liable to from the nature of his employments. When he had leisure, he retired into Campania, there to pursue his studies undisturbed by the noise and business of the city. He brought his work down to the eighth year of the reign of Alexander, in which he was consul with that prince, whose leave he afterwards obtained to end his days quietly in his own country.

His work was divided into eighty books: but the first thirty-four, and part of the thirty-fifth, are lost. What we have remaining begins with the sequel of Lucullus's victory over Mithridates and Tigranes. Of the next twenty-five which we have, the six last, from the fifty-fifth, which begins with the death of Drusus, son-in-law to Augustus, to the sixtieth, which ends with the reign of Claudius, are visibly abridgments, but in regular order, so as to form a connected narrative. The twenty last books have perished, except what has been preserved by Xiphilinus, nephew of the patriarch of Constantinople of the same name, who lived in the eleventh century, and made a pretty good abridgment of Dion Cassius, divided into reigns from Pompey to Alexander Severus. We have likewise some extracts, all detached pieces, published at different times by Fulvius Ursinus and Henricus Valensis. We were promised a few years ago, the first twenty-one books of Dion Cassius's History, lately discovered, restored, and properly arranged. But this pretended discovery, published at Naples in 1747, when thoroughly examined into, proved only a compilation of the four first lives of the illustrious Romans by Plutarch, with an extract from Zonaras. However, it is not the beginning of Dion's work that we ought to be most desirous of having. We are rich enough in regard to the first times of Rome. But if any one could be so happy as to recover the last books of this Historian, especially those after the reign of Vespasian, he would fill up a great chasm, and do an essential service to the Republic of Letters.

Dion Cassius has been justly charged with wronging some of the best men of antiquity, Cicero, Brutus, and Seneca. Credulous and superstitious to a vast degree, he has filled his work with prodigies. But this fault is more excusable in him than in his abbreviator, who was a Christian, and who has not copied him more faithfully in any one thing, than in these puerilities. The maxims which he has interspersed in his work are, in general,

ral, solid, sensible, and judicious; though they have not the sublimity and strength of those of the great writers. He shews himself an honest man; so far at least as he could without hazarding too much. His stile is easy, and his narration clear. Upon the whole, he is a very valuable Historian: and if Photius has done him too much honour in comparing him to Thucydides, it would be unjust to refuse him the glory of having been the best writer of his age.'

Maximin, the base instrument of the murder of the late excellent prince, was raised by the soldiers to the throne, acknowledged by the senate, and soon after, on Gordian's assuming the purple, declared a public enemy. Gordian did not live to enjoy his new dignity. His son was defeated and slain by Capellian, and to avoid falling into the conqueror's hands, the aged father ended his life with his own girdle. The senate, to oppose Maximin, whose cruelty and severity rendered him odious, elected Maximus and Balbinus emperors, both men of unblemished reputation. Rome was filled with tumult and faction; the people demanded a prince of the Gordian family: to gratify them, the eldest of the surviving sons of the late emperor was created Cæsar. In the mean time Maximin entered Italy, at the head of an army, laid siege to Aquileia, and was on the point of carrying the city, when he was slain in a sedition of his soldiers. The two new emperors did not long survive the fate of their rival: deserving of a better fate they both were sacrificed to the licentious mutinous spirit of the prætorians, who exalted young Gordian to the supreme authority.

This prince was but thirteen years of age, when he was exalted to a dignity, which equally required years and experience. He possessed, indeed, every quality that could recommend, engage, and captivate his subjects. After gaining laurels in the East, he perished by the hands of Philip, præfect of the prætorian band, who had the address to have himself proclaimed emperor by the soldiers. With the life of Gordian the third, so called, because his grandfather and uncle, the brothers of his sisters, had been associates in the imperial dignity, this volume concludes.—From this short epitome it will appear, that the Roman virtue, which had made Rome the mistress of the universe, was intirely annihilated, the government fallen into absolute anarchy, the empire set to sale, and the soldiers the supreme legislators. We shall soon, by the virtue of the princes, see it once more making vigorous efforts for the recovery of its ancient power, independency, and that resolute and inflexible integrity, which deservedly rendered this city the capital of the universe.

ART. VII. *Theory and Practice of Chirurgical Pharmacy : Comprehending a complete Dispensatory for the Use of Surgeons ; with explanatory and critical Notes on each Composition ; and an introductory Inquiry concerning the particular Intentions of Cure, in which Remedies are applied, or administered ; and the Nature, and medicinal Efficacy, of the several Simples subservient to them. 8vo. Pr. 6s. Nourse.*

THIS performance comes too late into our hands, to give it that minute examination, which every production of the ingenious author of the Institutes of Experimental Chemistry, would seem to deserve. It is almost obvious from the stile, the manner, the accuracy, and strict regard to method and scientific disposition, that the performance under consideration has at least passed the inspection of that gentleman. Possibly, however, the subject may appear unworthy of a pen which might usefully be employed upon others more important to medicine and philosophy. A particular pharmacopeia for surgeons, will not by all readers be deemed essential, as the intelligent practitioner must necessarily be acquainted with the whole dispensatory, the theory and practice of every part of pharmacy ; in which case he will be able justly to select what is immediately for his purpose. The practice of surgery is almost, in every instance, too intimately connected with the proper business of the physician and apothecary, to admit of discrimination in this particular. In fact, except a few sensible observations, and different arrangement, the reader will find little novelty in the chirurgical pharmacy, and the surgeon, well instructed in his duty, as little benefit from a dispensatory, composed expressly for his instruction. But let us hear our author's arguments in defence of the publication.

‘ However (says he) the means of teaching a more accurate and minute knowledge of the nature of medicaments in relation to the cure of topical disorders may have been neglected, it is, nevertheless, of the greatest consequence, that such a knowledge should be obtained by every practitioner: not only to guide individuals, on each occasion, by the light of clear and certain principles, to the most fit application of the methods now in use ; but in order also to the improvement of the art itself: which can only be the rare and casual effect of accident, where the practice, not being rationally directed by such principles, is empirically led only by a presumed conformity to established usage, that can have no adequate provision for the variety of attendant circumstances, and complications of diseases. It is
indis-

indisputably requisite, to the most advantageous choice preparation, and use of medicaments, to know not only in a general view what they ultimately perform; but to comprehend by what particular property, or mode of action, they so operate.

—— To understand what change each kind of substance is capable of working in the animal system, or on others with relation to it :——and to distinguish, in compounds, what are the peculiar virtue, and office of each constituent; and, by what mediate effect, it conduces to the final intention; whether through its own proper affect on the human body, or controll of that of other co-ingredients, maintaining its original powers, and state, though commixt with them; or by producing a new species of substance, indued with different qualities, in consequence of its menstrual combination with some of the rest.

But is not all this equally applicable to general pharmacy, as to the particular practice and circumstances of the surgeon. Had any attempt been made to ascertain the direct power of medicines, and to distinguish the peculiar virtue and power of each separate ingredient in compound medicines, a knowledge impossible, while our understanding with respect to the relations of bodies is limited, it would merit a higher title than that of chirurgical pharmacy. It would, in truth, be a most curious and useful system of natural philosophy, adapted to the purposes of physic.

We shall now exhibit the general division of our author's performance, which we must allow to be rational and perspicuous. Having defined the nature and limits of chirurgical pharmacy, which he confines to those medicaments, simple or compound, administered or applied for the cure of disorders in *particular* parts, he proceeds to a general description of the structure and vital œconomy of the human body. Under this head certain definitions are laid down, to which we cannot give our assent. For instance, 'Inflammations (says our author) appear, on due examination, to be in fact a peculiar spasmodic state of the nerves, caused by continual irritation, which may arise from the violence of some goading instrument, or the pungency of some acrimonious substance, &c.' But we would ask our ingenious author, whether inflammation from external injuries, either by wound or contusion, is not more immediately occasioned by the solution of continuity, and the obstruction to the natural course of the fluids, than from any spasmodic affection? We are persuaded this might easily be proved by numberless proofs, would our time, and the nature of a Review, admit of disquisition.

The following remark upon the production of purulent matter merits attention:

Though pus (says the author) is undoubtedly formed originally from the serum of the blood; yet it may be reasonably questioned, whether it issues directly from the *divided* blood vessels constricted so as to restrain the tinging matter of the blood, and suffer only the serous part and lymph to pass, as is generally received; or whether it be discharged from the *tela cellulosa*, in consequence of the fluxion that attends the inflammation necessary to the production of pus. Since the *tela cellulosa* contains such gelatinous and lymphous fluids, as, mixed together, would afford a similar humour: and is, in general, found to be the seat both of the generation and propagation of purulency. The latter opinion receives great support from the observation, that at first, when any solution of continuity is made, after the flux of blood ceases in the divided part, the discharge is generally very sparing, and sometimes wholly wanting; but afterwards increases, or comes on again, gradually, to a very copious degree; and that this increase is greatly promoted in the maturation of the ulcer by the application of such substances as stimulate and irritate. For were this discharge, as well afterwards, when truly purulent, as at first when crude, only the simple effusion of serum escaping through the mouths of the divided blood and lymphatic vessels, after they had suffered just such a degree of contraction as would restrain the tinging substance of the blood, it ought to be the greatest at that time; and to diminish as the constriction of the blood-vessels became gradually greater: which would, moreover, be augmented by the effects of stimulating and irritating bodies. But, as well the difference of the qualities of the pus, and the serum of the blood in its original state, as these collateral circumstances, seem to indicate; that pus is serum, changed into a different humour by more complex means, than the simple effects of straining through orifices formed by the accidental division of the blood and lymphatic vessels; especially as pus most recedes from the nature of the serum, when it is most copiously discharged; which ought to be otherwise, on the supposition, that it was the meer serum escaping through the mouths of the divided vessels. Since, as the quantity issuing ought to be in proportion to the largeness of such mouths, the greater the discharge, and the less would be the change, made, by the percolation or straining through the mouths of the vessels, on the nature of the fluid passing through them. In order to account for this difficulty in the difference of pus from serum, on observing, that it sunk in water, and had consequently a greater specific gra-

gravity than the serous part of the blood separated from the tinging matter was supposed to have, it has been frequently asserted, that pus was formed of the serum of the blood, commixt, in the ulcer, with abraded parts of the solids. But there can be little ground for this supposition, when it is considered, that, at the time the pus is most perfect, the solids are so far from appearing to suffer *any* such abrasion, that they are in an increasing state; and instead of the destruction of the old parts, which must be the case, if they furnished matter to the pus, the generation of new always attends. This hypothesis may be, therefore, justly rejected, as wholly wanting ground in the appearances of nature with respect to the production of pus; and not being necessary even to account for the qualities of it, if the supposition be admitted, that it is not formed immediately from the serum of the blood, but from the humours of the tela cellulosa: which contain a larger proportion of animal earth; and have, consequently, that greater specific gravity than the serum, which gave occasion to this notion, that the abraded solids made a part of the pus.

After enlarging upon the vital œconomy as far as was judged necessary, our author proceeds to the most essential part of his labour; to shew by what properties and mode of action medicines effect the final intention: in which we must beg leave to say he has given but little satisfaction, as he has not descended to particular bodies, but confined himself to general classes. Perhaps the one would be impracticable, and we are pretty sure the other is equally void of utility and novelty.

In the next division ‘*of the particular kinds of artificial forms of medicaments,*’ the reader will find the epithem for cancers, commonly called Plumket’s Powder for cancers and schirrhous tumors. As the curiosity of the public has been raised with the cures said to have been performed by this nostrum, we will retail the composition in the words of our author, subjoining his remarks.

“Take of crows foot, which grows in low grounds, one handful, well pounded; of dogs fennel, three sprigs, pounded likewise; of crude brimstone, three middling thimbles full; and of white arsenic, the same quantity; all incorporated well in a mortar. Then make it into small balls, the size of a nutmeg; and dry it in the sun.

“In order to apply it, the balls must be bruised into fine powder; and mixt with the yolk of a fresh egg, and laid over the sore, covered with a piece of hog’s bladder split; or the stripping of a calf, when dropt; which must be cut of the size

of the sore, and smeared with the yolk of an egg. If it be applied to the nose, or the lip, you must also take care, that the patient do not swallow any of the humour. You must also take care, not to lay the plaster too broad on the face, or near the heart. It is hazardous to exceed the breadth of a crown (*in such case*); but in the feet or legs (it may be laid) as far as the sore goes. The plaster must not be stirred, till it drop off of itself: which will be in a week; but must have a clean bandage twice a day."

OBSERVATION.

' This composition was formerly used in Ireland, by old Plumket, a famous empiric; who gained reputation for curing cancers; and, afterwards, gave the recipe to St. Stephen's Hospital: where it is said to have been found frequently successful. There is no reason to doubt, but that it is the same remedy which has lately been offered to the world here, as an almost infallible means; and is, indeed, said, by persons of credit, to have effected most extraordinary cures.

' The public are obliged to an eminent surgeon, who practises here for procuring the recipe from St. Stephen's Hospital; and vouching for its being an authentic copy of that, communicated by old Plumket. As it has been preserved hitherto in Plumket's own words, I have thought proper to continue it so: though the expression is neither technical, nor accurate. But I would not take away the right, which every one has equally with myself, of judging what real definite quantities are equivalent to his handfuls, sprigs, and thimbles full. The ingredients acting combinedly, by a specific virtue, there can be comment on the particular relation of each to the intention of cure. Only one may conjecture, with probability, that the arsenic has the principal share in the effect; and that the dogs fennel is the most insignificant simple.

' The cases most proper for the application of this remedy are those, where the cancer is superficial; situated in fleshy parts; and not ramified, or too widely spread. For if the whole cannot be covered, so as to be destroyed by the escarotic power of the medicament, the use of it is in vain.

We will submit it to others, whether it be equitable to trespass on the property of an eminent surgeon, who is said to have given a high price for the secret, by publishing the medicine: certain we are, that in a moral sense, public benefit ought to take place of private interest.

ART. VIII. *The History of the Proceedings in the Case of Margaret, commonly called Peg, only lawful Sister to John Bull, Esq; &c.* Pr. 3s. Owen.

HAD not the inimitably humorous performance of Dr. Arbuthnot led the way, this little piece would be allowed to possess more merit than will now be granted by the admirers of that celebrated writer. The several nations and individuals are extremely well characterised, and the imitation happily supported. The situation of these kingdoms, previous to the accession of James I. at the Revolution, and the Union, is humorously and justly described. Perhaps the reader may discover the origin of the present war in the following extract :

‘ Now it happened, that John and Lewis had about the same time taken in part of the west-common, and though their fields were not contiguous, they could not agree about their marches. Many meetings they had to settle them, but all to no purpose, for none of them knew well what he would be at. The common saying was, that Lewis wanted to get all the land in the country, and you needed only to tell John so much, in order to put him in a downright foam of rage and fury. However this be, Lewis tormented his own people enough, with making them stick in posts and stakes in different parts of the common ; and when John asked him what he meant, They were only rubbing-posts for his cows to scratch themselves, in case they strayed so far. But other people told John, that Lewis would some day or other claim every bit of that ground as his own, by virtue of those stakes, if he was not checked in time. Accordingly, John sent him some angry message about them ; and Lewis in return, begged leave to present his compliments to John, and assured him, that the thing in the world he wished most, was to live in good terms with his honoured friend and neighbour John Bull. Mean time, some of John’s cow-herds met with a fellow or two belonging to Lewis, and after a great deal of bad language painful to repeat, they came to blows, and made a great noise, which brought John and Lewis too, to see what was the matter. John, indeed, happened to be in his barge that afternoon, on the lake to the west of his house, which he affected to call his own fish-pond, and Lewis too being on his way to the common, their barges unhappily met, when John, without any more ado, took up an oar, and aimed a blow at Lewis Baboon’s brains. You damned, insidious, fair-tongued villain, this is all your doing, with your stakes, and your posts, and your covetousness for land, which nobody will possess under you,

you, you damned, oppressive, squeezing rascal. My dear John, says Lewis, what is the matter? The matter, you scoundrel! With that John aimed another blow; but their barges ran foul of one another, and he fastened on Lewis Baboon's wig, tore his bag, and threw it in the water; in short, before you could count six, there was not a hat nor a wig to be seen in the whole boats-crew, of either side. History says, that Lewis had like to have been drowned outright, and was glad to get home with his head broken in many places, and cursing John Bull, for the most rash, choleric, blunder-headed fellow, that ever was known in the world.'

We meet, however, with several anachronisms introduced, possibly to render the history more obscure and ænigmatical. It would be unjust, notwithstanding, to deny the strength of the author's genius in portraiture: let the sketches of Jowler, Hubble-bubble, the boy George, Mac Lurchar, Bumbo, the Nurse and Mrs. Bull determine. We will not pretend to decide, whether they are not properly caricaturas; certain we are that they distinguish wit and talent. The principal object of the writer seems to be the establishment of a militia in Peg's house, in which at present the garrets are only defended, while the cellars, parlour, &c. is left to the mercy of every little sculler in the service of Lewis Baboon. The following reflections on a standing army, we shall submit to the judgment of our reader

' This family has been for some time in the practice of committing their defence intirely to a certain class of people, whom they call game-keepers. Those are the only persons about the house, supposed to know any thing at all of the use of arms; they are set apart from the rest of the family, and by their manner of life are made to shake off all connection with them as much as possible; and this, I suppose, that they may be at all times ready to go any where, or do any thing that their profession may require, without any regret of their own, or incumbrance from other people.

' They are taught, for the same reason, to obey their leader implicitly, and to know no law but his commands; to all which conditions they bind themselves for life; and in the mean time, do no work either in seed-time or harvest, but are fed at the expence of the family.

' This, I apprehended, to be a very fair description of a game-keeper, as that profession is now maintained. Every body knows that Mr. Bull has chosen this expedient with great reluctance. He was always apprehensive, that whoever was master
of

of the only arms in a house, might soon become master of the house itself. The practice, however, stole upon him, and for ought I know he might have gone all lengths in the use of it, if he had not been ashamed of a sudden, to find himself and all his family afraid to look any enemy in the face. He bethought himself of the wretched condition he must be in, either if his game-keepers should turn against him, should desert him, or even be out of the way at an unlucky time. And, to fortify himself against those calamities, he has distributed a certain quantity of arms among his children; a certain number are to be named in their turns, to learn the use of those arms, under the direction of a person, to whom all his other affairs are so happily intrusted. The people who receive this instruction live in the family, and mind their business, with the single interruption, which some days of practice, or necessary service may occasion. When they have taken their turn, they leave that station to others, and leave as before; with this only difference, that if the house is alarmed, they are readier to act a part, in which they have already had some practice.

‘ We have heard enough of the impossibility of putting this scheme in execution; but, I think, it is found sufficiently practicable, when we want to have somebody in place of the game-keepers, whom we employ so liberally elsewhere; and therefore I shall not now say any thing at all upon that point.

‘ Has it then any inconveniencies which do not attend every other method of self-defence? The expence, the interruption of business, the trouble attending it, do certainly not exceed what is found of the same kind, in maintaining the profession of game-keepers. In point of expence, it is evident we can afford a much more numerous body of men in this way than in any other, if instead of augmenting our game-keepers without end, to vie with our neighbours, we are satisfied with a moderate number in ordinary times, and prepare this resource for ourselves, against any sudden alarm.

‘ With respect to the interruption of work, it must be allowed, that nobody can possibly work less than a game-keeper. To have so many people idle in succession, or the same number of individuals idle for their whole lives, appears to me precisely the same thing, with this only difference, that a game-keeper is idle, whether there be occasion to employ him in his profession or no, the other is not.’

In a word, the writer is satirical, intelligent, and public-spirited; sometimes indecent in his expression.

ART,

ART. IX. *Memoirs of the Revolution in Bengal, Anno. Dom. 1757.*

By which Meer Jaffier was raised to the Government of that Province, together with those of Bahar and Orixá. Including the Motives to this Enterprize; the Method in which it was accomplished; and the Benefits that have accrued from thence to that Country, our United Company trading to the East-Indies, and to the British Nation. 8vo. Pr. 2s. 6d. Millar.

THE best recommendation of any detail in which the public is universally interested, is simplicity, which immediately stamps the mark of veracity, and infallibly discovers whether the writer bore a part in the transactions he describes. Every laboured reflection, and studied refinement, affords suspicion, that the genuine narrative is adulterated by passing thro' foreign hands: we meet hyperboles, the tinsel and gewgaws of good writing, where we expect a natural unadorned relation of facts. Who would look for intrigues at the court of an untutored Asiatic barbarian, as complicated, and a policy as wire-drawn as at the courts of Rome, Vienna, or Versailles? Men of plain understanding pay too great a compliment to learning, when they imagine every production worthy of the public, must first pass in review before a scholar. They may be assured, that greater difficulty attends acting with caution, prudence, and sagacity, in critical conjunctures, than in penning simple memoirs; and that the person who has address enough to steer through perilous situations, can never fail in writing a satisfactory relation of his conduct. The sentiments will then flow genuine from the heart, and the native beauties of the narrative surpass all the glare of erudition, and ostentation of the pedant. In the instance before us, good sense in a writer the least tinctured with letters, is sufficient to secure the indulgence and applause of the publick. We thought it necessary to enlarge upon this subject, to prevent the pernicious effects of an error, which always arises from modesty and diffidence. To judge of the truth of our remarks, let any person who has set down on paper the principal occurrences of his life, and afterwards had them manufactured by an artist for publication, consider, whether his sentiments have been exactly expressed, his feelings described, and the performance intirely to his own satisfaction,

It fortunately happens, that as no transaction since the establishment of the English East-India company, is more interesting and important than the late signal revolution in Bengal, so no other occurrence in the commercial history of this country has been more minutely and explicitly related. We could, however, wish
the

the author had begun his narrative higher, and related the circumstances that produced the unhappy catastrophe at Calcutta, which, in fact, was the origin of the war, and the consequent revolution in Bengal. The pamphlet published soon after that event, exhibits only a detail of the sufferings of the English factory. If we do not mistake, there are indeed some insinuations different from what we find assigned in these Memoirs, as the actuating motives of the nabob's conduct; certain we are, that the scene afterwards opened at the general meeting of the proprietors of India stock, suggested more than we here find specified. It is not the intention of the reviewers, to rip open sores that are happily closed; but their duty obliges them to mention what appears to them defective in the performance under consideration. All the rest is clear and perspicuous, and the only account of the secret springs of action that has hitherto appeared. The public has been tolerably well informed of the military operations so admirably conducted by colonel Clive and admiral Watson: it has shewn the deepest sense of obligation to those gentlemen, in the most respectful testimonies of gratitude to the memory of the one, and the person of the other; but the merit of Mr. Watts has been overlooked, because it was not universally known, that the steadiness, the sagacity, and the uprightness of his measures at Muxadavat, the capital of the nabob, was among the chief instruments of the good fortune of the nation. There we find him firmly pursuing the interests of the company, and at the imminent hazard of his life, laying the foundations of a revolution, from which his constituents, and Great Britain in general, has deduced the most important advantages. As we would not anticipate the curiosity of the public by extracts, which must appear lame and unsatisfactory, we will refer our readers to the pamphlet, whence he may form a judgment of the immense treasures brought into the kingdom, by the prudent, gallant, and intrepid conduct of three gentlemen, whose names will be transmitted with honour to the latest posterity.

ART. X. *Institutes of Health*. 8vo. Pr. 2s. Becket.

IT is not a tye-wig, a full-trimmed suit of black, a diploma, and a face replete with solemnity and self-importance, that constitute the physician; good sense, reading, and observation, are the foundation of medical sagacity, though the former may be deemed necessary signs to distinguish this magazine of health. Our author candidly acknowledges, that physic is not his

his profession, though it has formed part of his study and amusement. This indeed is a discovery which a technical reader would have made without his confession, from certain positions contrary to the established principles of the art. However, as these no way diminish the merit of the practical institutes, which are built on experience, and supported by reason, we shall not quarrel with the author about matters purely speculative. For instance, we shall not enquire whether the arguments he has offered against salt and sugar, be altogether scientific and satisfactory. It would be equally unjust and ridiculous, to enter upon debate with a writer, whose sole aim is the public good, who speaks with the utmost diffidence of his performance, and submits all his opinions to the judgment of his readers.

‘ All I have preliminarily to entreat of the reader, is, (says he) for him to give his own judgment the fair play of a suspension of prejudice, till he shall have perused the whole; and not suffer any disgust on meeting with what may, at first, shock some established opinion, some favourite point of life, or of taste with him, to precipitate a condemnation: and especially that he will all along remember that I am not ridiculously presuming to dictate to him, but only to recommend every thing to the examination of his own reason. He cannot also but see, that rather than give up barely the glimpse of a hope of his not rejecting my wish, at least, to be serviceable to him, I expose myself to the almost perfect certainty of incurring his displeasure, and even his contempt, for which the rectitude of my intentions must be my consolation. Believing, as I firmly do, that he will find the greatest advantage, and even, in process of time, the greatest pleasure, in the consequence of not disregarding, in practice, the following rules, I should have held myself inexcusable, if I had not offered them, at the risque of whatever treatment he may chuse to give them. The good he will do himself, by rejecting or accepting them, is very justly my preferable wish.’

— We apprehend it will be more agreeable and useful to our readers, to exhibit such of the practical rules as we think equally necessary to health and neatness. Our author sets out with recommending, that the mouth should be kept religiously clean. His directions are given in the following terms:

‘ Scrape the tongue with a whalebone-scraper; bring off the scum; after which rinse the mouth with fair water. Pick the teeth with a common quill pick-tooth. I suppose them prepared (if necessary) by a thorough operation from the dentist. Use no powder nor opiate to them, nor, much less, any tincture.

Rub

Rub them with a common brush, or a mallow-root formed into a brush by bruising the end: the softer the better. Plain sage leaves are excellent, but not steeped in wine, as recommended by Hoffman. This should be done twice a day, all but the tongue-scraping part, which is only for the morning. A good rule is to cleanse your mouth so completely, that the water you spirt out of your mouth after revolving it, shall not be less pure than when you took it in. This operation in the morning, and after dinner, will hardly take you up two minutes each time. The trouble of it will soon, under favour of habit, cease to be a trouble to you. Besides the pleasure of cleanliness; besides the nicety of the palate, and the preservation of the teeth, it is of considerable importance to health, from its service in the promotion of a freer issue of the salivary secretion.

With respect to the rule for keeping the head warm, especially during sleep, we apprehend it ought to be established under numerous limitations and exceptions. Early rising is certainly a good moral, as well as medical maxim, and we entirely agree with the author as to the utility of the following rules.

The moment you wake in the morning take a common brown bisket, preferable to that called captain's bisket, recommended by Dr. Robinson; or of the crust; or even crumb of bread, on failure of the teeth, about two ounces. The act of mastication will contribute to waken you thoroughly. Do not, on any terms, go to sleep again (as he also recommends), but use yourself to come off conqueror in the battle with your bed. Spring up: then as soon as you please perform the operation of cleansing your mouth. That done, I would have you settle any domestic business you may have, preferably to the going out before breakfast, in an air commonly charged with the damps and fogs of the night, to the noxiousness of which the expanding and exhaling power of the rising sun gives rather an increased activity. This however will not be sensible on using any violent exercise, as riding or but hard walking, but to which, unless in particular cases, the transition from an absolute state of rest may not only be too violent, and abrupt, but leave you under a sort of weariness for the rest of the day.

At dinner, eat moderately, that is to say, so as to avoid any sense of oppression or heaviness from over-repletion, or of repining at insufficiency or inanition. Rise light, but rise satisfied; rather only ballasted than over-loaded. Your own experience and feelings will be your best directors. But on this

you may depend, that even a small excess, which I would have you however avoid, in plain healthy nutritious food, is not so dangerous as somewhat less in quantity of those rich, high, savory dishes which afford so much a stronger temptation to intemperance, especially to palates depraved out of their native simplicity. The point is to shun errors, either in quantity or quality.

• Exercise, upon a full stomach, rather over-precipitating digestion, perhaps too disturbing it: the gentlest motion, or even sitting is best.

The whole of the next article may be adopted, with only a few exceptions; we mean what regards salt, milk, and oysters.

• First (says the author) the two salts: the common salt, and the salt commonly called sugar. These are totally to be rejected with all preparations or compositions into which they enter. Even honey never to be taken, unless upon very good advice, medicinally.

• Milk, in general, and with but few exceptions for particular cases and constitutions. Cheese, unless very sparingly. Butter, as little as possible: the constitutionally lean, may use it with the most safety, but no one in any morbid case. Animal fat: oil: mushrooms: cucumbers, unless stewed.

• Vinegar, pickles, and in general all acids, unless vegetable acids, and those only in due proportion to the animal food, the alkaliescence of which they serve to correct and neutralize. The gastric juices are but too susceptible of the predominion of the acid, especially from too great an ingestion of any acid or acedent pabulum.

• All spices, or the stronger aromatics, are absolutely, in a greater or lesser degree an acrid poison. They may be of some use in the very hot countries where they grow, from reasons of antiperistalsis; but, in this climate, they are indubitably bad, in a dietetic view at least, as indeed every thing is that heats, and consequently puts life on the spur. It is the just temper of the blood, that gives health and length of days. If fire is our preserver, it is also as certainly our destroyer: it necessarily causes the wearing out of the movements of that machine it keeps agoing. By augmenting that heat, you disorder the principle of motion, and accelerate your end, as you may make an eight-day clock run down, short of its time, by hurrying the springs.

• All soups, jellies, and even broths not commendable (unless in reserved cases) for common diet. By their glibness in deg-

deglutition, in that liquid form, which makes them rather to be drank than eaten; they defraud the stomach of that salivary juice which a competent mastication carries down with it, and of which it is so fond. Besides that, the over-coction of the aliment in that fluid state, is ungrateful to the stomach; they relax it, and do not afford it that consistence for the concoction, which at once exercises and strengthens it. Neither do they yield so virtuous a chyle as the solid meats themselves, before the boiling shall have consumed, or over extracted from them.

Be sure to avoid, especially the making a practice of eating or drinking any thing too hot.

All pies are bad, whether sweet, or made of animal-meats, and indeed, so are, in general, all confectionary, or pastry-ware. Currants are rather better than raisins, which contain too much of a saccharine matter in them.

Extremities of animals, such as calves-feet, and the like, contain too phlegmatic and viscous a sustenance. Pig is for that reason not eligible.

Oysters are not absolutely bad, but made worse by the salt in which they are steeped, by way of heightening their relish. They are best stewed in their shell.

As to the swallowing liquid fire, in drams of brandy, rum, or such spirituous liquors, under the name of cordials, it is, in general, a most pernicious practice. Nothing is falser than assisting digestion. All made wines are execrable to the stomach; they are, if possible, worse than punch, which is very bad, yes! even in hot countries, where, if any where, there might be some color for indulging in it.

Mineral-waters, and especially chalybeates, are, generally speaking, detrimental in an advanced age.

Tobacco, bad, for a habit either of snuffing, smoking, or chewing.

Sago, in no sense, bad, but for its appearance of a nutritious mucilage or jelly, inducing to the error of trusting to it for nourishment, though, what it contains of it is next to nothing.

We could wish indeed to see the reasons against the use of milk, except in particular cases and constitutions, specified. We cannot be prevailed on to reject oysters indiscriminately in all constitutions; and as to honey and common salt, good reasons may be advanced for the general use of one, and the particular utility of the other.

To eat with meat or fish, as may be respectively requisite, the following concomitants are recommended.

Mustard. Horseradish, excellent for pituitous constitutions, and good either with flesh, fish, or fowl. Parsly-roots, or parsly boiled and softened with poached eggs instead of butter. Apple-sauce. Quince baked or boiled. Garden and water-creffes, excellent. Indian nasturtium and nasturtian flowers. Alliaria. Cellery. Asparagus. French-beans. Beans, peas; though of these kind of pulse, I would have you be rather sparing. Red cabbage boiled. Artichoaks. Onions, raw or boiled. Garlic, shalot, Rocambole, these now and then sparingly. Scorzonera. Parsnips, Skerrets. Potatoes. Turneps. Carrots, and all esculents of this nature.

But once more observe the great use of these vegetables is to lessen the necessity to you, of taking in too great a quantity of animal food, and in course of the animal salts that food contains, whose degeneracy into an acrid alcalescence they serve to correct, and prevent any bad impression therefrom on the blood; the natural balminess of which they thus contribute to preserve. In that intention too, fruits may be eaten with moderation, but ever well ripe, and best if with a little bread, especially if out of meal-time, as about eleven in the morning. They may, but still with bread, even make part of the supper.

It is better to drink after, than during the meal. A glass of fair water after dinner, is sovereignly wholesome. It may then be followed by a glass or two of wine, cider, beer, ale, or the like.

But whatever you eat, do not forget the indispensable practice of a perfect mastication, in aid of the powers of digestion, by the greater derivation and admixture of the salival juice. It will even go near to rob very noxious food of its power to hurt. There is hardly that crudity of aliment that it cannot conquer. Imagine then to yourself, what good it must do, when employed only in the conveyance of laudable articles of nourishment. The first, and perhaps not the least important digestion, begins undoubtedly in the mouth. When an over-abundance of the saliva denotes obstructions, the deglutition of that saliva is not insignificant to their removal, especially when seconded by a proper diet.

A good general rule, as to the solidity of your aliment, is to regulate it by your exercise; with special advertence, not to let the good effects of it be frustrated by the gluttony of that appetite it will have created. Exercise, when made a pandar

to intemperance, soon, in its own destruction, receives from her the reward of its good service.

As to your drinking; water well chosen, is uncontestably the best common beverage. Yet, from the general aversion to this admirably salutary liquid, one would think there was an epidemical hydrophobia. Clarified whey is the next best. But these do not exclude, the use, if well regulated, at times, of other liquids. Tea, and other the like aqueous infusions moderately taken, are even of service to the studious or over-sedentary; and in some cases of obstruction, greatly so. I have known a disordered stomach presently recovered by the use of lemon or orange-peel, infused in the manner of tea. A glass or two of generous wine, pure or diluted; a little ale, beer, or cider at meals, can scarcely hurt. But do not suffer any false reasoning to lull you into a belief of impunity from any excess. Be ever upon guard against yourself. Remember that health, like religion or morals, suffers by the treacherous flattery of a relaxed casuistry.

Our author next proceeds to air, exercise, and bathing, in which we find nothing particular; perhaps our readers may be of that opinion with respect to what we have quoted. The book, however, ought to be exempted from censure, because scarce any of the institutes can prove hurtful; many of them will be found salutary. The maxims of health are followed by a string of moral precepts and reflections, in which it must be confessed there is something to amuse and instruct. Upon the whole, the author has perused physical books; he has adopted and enforced certain axioms, which at least merit a candid perusal.

ART. XI. *The Life of John Carteret Pilkington. To which are added, Letters between Lord K—g—h, and Mrs. Lætitia Pilkington. Also Poems, &c. by the Rev. Mr. Matthew Pilkington. Revised and corrected by the late Dean Swift. 2 Vols. 12mo. Pr. 6s. Griffiths.*

THIS performance was first published by subscription: several names of people of the first fashion appear upon the list; a fine instance, if not of the discernment, at least of the benevolence of the English nobility. We must own, however, that patronage extorted from the great, whatever praise it might reflect on them, added none in our eye to the merits of the author. We took up his book with a design to be dis-

pleased ; and even prejudice predisposed us to read a performance thus ushered into the world with indifference and even contempt. But as we proceeded in his narration, we began to become reconciled to the author : the easy simplicity of his manner, the flowing elegance of his style, and a prettiness of thinking, so much resembling that of his mother, the well-known Letitia Pilkington, entirely altered our sentiments ; nor can we avoid classing it among the most amusing performances that have appeared this season.

The first volume is chiefly taken up with his own adventures, which, however, do not so much interest the reader from their strangeness, as from the agreeable manner in which they are related ; domestic distress, the insolence of the wealthy, and the uncontinuing professions of premature friendships, make up the detail. Being early involved in his mother's disgraces, he met several, who, in the first impulse of tenderness, were ready to harbour and relieve him ; but every repeated solicitation diminishing their sensibility, they all at last abandoned him, and charged upon his insolence or ingratitude that coldness, which proceeded only from their own discontinuance of sympathy with his distress.

Such in general are the contents of the first volume, but in several places enlivened with short stories of his acquaintances, or related by them, particularly an account of Pockeridge, who lately exhibited in London as a musician upon glasses, by lightly rubbing his moistened fingers on the edge of a drinking glass : this ingenious original would solicit the most charming tones imaginable. It is not improbable but that this invention, properly conducted by a person equally conversant in mechanics and music, might be brought to some perfection. Most of the useful or pleasing arts of life, were invented by the ignorant and enterprising, and brought to perfection by meditation joined to science.

Our Author seems to have an hereditary claim to the press ; both his father and mother pursuing the same route before him. The second volume contains an epistolary correspondence between his mother and lord K—g—h : these letters in general are pretty enough ; but Mrs. Pilkington seems too much a poetess to write with the unaffected ease of a Sevigné, or a Maintenon, and his lordship too much of the blood, to write like the fine gentleman. The latter half of the volume is taken up with the works of the author's father, who was also a poet : these were published some years ago, and met with the fate which middling poetry generally finds ; they were thought pretty enough while

new, read, and praised by his friends, and soon forgotten : the son, however, with true filial piety, has redeemed them from oblivion ; they may serve to swell out his book, but they will help to hasten its decline. He somewhat resembles the heroic son, who bore his father upon his back, in order to escape from certain destruction.

As an extract of this work, we shall present our readers with an additional scene to a farce, called High Life below Stairs, which the author praises for its truth, and the proper application of the satire.

“ Enter Philip in a great Passion, with a Letter sealed in his Hand.

“ Philip. This house is pestered with letters, it would employ ten porters to answer them ; yet I take great care they get nothing by it ; for the fool, my master, would soon put it out of his power to regale us, if he saw one half of them.

Duke. Is that a specimen in your hand, Mr. Phil ? Prithce let's see it, it may afford us a laugh before the fidler comes.

Philip. Ay, ay, *per bonum publicus*, your grace may divert the company with it ; a shabby fellow brought it, and had the impudence to tell me he was a gentleman.

Sir Harry. A journeyman gentleman, I suppose, the most contemptible caricature in nature. When our blockhead came first to his estate, he used to be at the pains of answering those troublesome gentry, and sent me, with a devil to him, to ferrit them out, in places that disgusted my nature ; but I soon cured him of it, by putting his answer in the sinking fund, and giving the more rational reply a gentleman should always do.—“ We know nothing of you, and wonder at your assurance to trouble people of consequence.”

Duke. *Fort bien*, Sir Harry, *en verite bien*, nous tout rendrell meme reponses.—My sapscul values himself on being a politician, and thinks he manages matters with marvellous secrecy ; but when I come to brush his cloaths in the morning, I find in his pockets the whole business of the day, and take proper measures to frustrate any designs he may have, that I esteem *mal a propos* ; for such papers as I think may prove troublesome to me, I put out of the way : and if he enquires for them, declare, point blank, I know nothing at all of the matter.

Lady Bab. Why, my lady is the most romanticist idiot alive ; she's perpetually corresponding with *poits*, and would be weak enough to give the creators all her card-money, but I peaches

their *morillity*. I tells my lady as how, I hears bad *characters* of them from different *trades persons*, and she's too much taken up with pleasures to make *pertiklur* enquiry ; so I twines her round my finger. I always gives our clark of the kitchen as my *autor*, and he lies with so good a grace, that his news passes for *genewing*.

Duke. Now *avec permission*, je lisez se letre pour se bein compagne. (Opens the letter.)

Sir Harry. I'll beg a dust of your grace's *strasbough*, to keep up my spirits, and to prevent *infiction* first.

Duke. *Vouz ete bien venu monsieur*. (Reaches his box) [reads] Dear Sir.—Black Fryers.

Omnes, ha ! ha ! ha ! ha !

Duke. Stay, stay, a commoner may have intimates ; pray has any of this noble company ever been on the other side of London-Bridge ?

Lady Charlotte. Why does your grace ask ?

Duke. Only a whim, my lady, to know *whither* the inhabitants walk uprightly as we do, or go upon all fours ; canibals they undoubtedly are—but *prinigarde*—I'll proceed in the epistle (reads affectedly, minding no stops.)

“ If the memory of that love which sustisted between us in our boyish days, is not by time and long absence quite effaced, you'll certainly be pleased to hear that your old school-fellow, Dick Grapple, is still in being, though almost naked, upon the British shore.”

Duke (to the company.) Was ever such nonsense heard of ? That if he loved his old friend, he'd be glad to hear he was almost naked.

This seems taken from nature ; and we are of opinion such talents, properly applied, would at least produce a farce, equal to that which is taken here as a model of imitation. Upon the whole, we would not be thought to recommend this performance for more than being agreeable ; and even that is no small share of reputation, at a time when so many productions daily appear, that are sufficient to banish in the reader even a disposition to gaiety.

ART. XII. *A practical Treatise on Consumptions.* By John Stephens,
M. D. 8vo. Pr. 5s. Owen.

THIS book deserves the title of a theoretical as well as a practical treatise on consumptions. Doctor Stephens, who to a late dissertation on fevers had prefixed the laws of motion common to all bodies, has in the present volume begun by applying to all medicine the knowledge that is acquired in natural philosophy. Not content with this, he resolves to treat of consumptions mathematically. He does not mean to calculate the different degrees of power with which the several causes of consumptions act upon the body, and bring about these diseases, nor to specify exactly the proportions that the various remedies bear to each other, which are supposed to palliate or to cure these dangerous disorders. Not one arithmetical figure, or algebraic character, or geometrical line, is to be found in the whole book. To treat a subject mathematically, according to Dr. Stephens, it is sufficient to place at the head of the several divisions of his treatise the words proposition, scholium, corollary, instead of chapter and section. A real mathematical treatise on consumptions would have been as vain as this abuse of words is absurd. But if the Doctor avoids mathematical disquisitions, he indulges himself most freely in speculations of every other kind. After wading through a number of useless and prolix propositions, in which he asserts rather than proves the use of theory in physic, and considers the causes of animal heat, of nourishment, of health, of diseases in general, we at last arrive about the middle of the volume to that part which gives title to the whole.

Our author is of opinion, that the true causes of all decays and consumptions must arise from the contractile force of the fibres being depressed below the ballance of nature, from an increase of the centripetal or attractive force of the fluids following thereupon, and from obstructions and schirrous swellings of the viscera; which, towards the last stages of the disease, degenerate into ulcers upon the several bowels; the consequence of an increase of the centripetal or attractive force of the fluids. Therefore, from what I have observed, the causes of consumptions or decays will begin, whenever the whole body, or any part thereof, ceases to be nourished; and this will happen whenever the particles of its fluids too strongly cohere, which will be the case, whenever the fibres begin to lose their springiness and elasticity; consequently, the beginning of decays will be, whenever the elasticity of the fibres abate, and the
containing

containing vessels recede from their proper stricture : and as the attractive force of the fluids increase, so will the attractive force of the solids decrease, and change their principle of attraction for that of repulsion, as the former does the contrary. The cause of this change of principle proceeds from the irregular use of the non-naturals, of which I shall treat at large hereafter. Upon this change of principle, the body loses in a great measure its natural motion, the fluids thereby become viscid and tenacious, their heat decreases, and the body becomes more chilly, especially when it uses but little exercise ; this inherent coldness proceeds from the weakness of the capillary vessels, and the languidness of the secretions, the consequence thereof ; whereby the vital stream cannot separate such a quantity of ætherial particles, or animal spirits, as is necessary to preserve, in due order, the several motions and actions of life. This relaxation of the fibres is, therefore, the chief spring from whence arises all the preceding phenomena. The most effectual method of relieving a constitution that is thus oppressed, is to brace the fibres, render pervious the vessels, and bring the body into a condition of being nourished.

‘ The cure of a consumption, therefore, can be pursued by nothing more efficacious than a course of medicines which are gently aperient, and endued with a large quantity of elastic air, joined to a diet of milk and vegetables, or, in fact, of meats which are very easy of digestion ; proper exercise, as riding in a vehicle, or on horse-back, walking, or playing at bowls ; a light, clear, and springy air, not too sharp, and a command of the passions. These will be found to dissolve the viscosity and tenacity of the fluids, resolve the obstructions of the several viscera, increase the contractions and elasticity of the fibres, restore them to their proper springiness and tension, the fluids to their due velocity and fluidity, and, in fact, the body to its pristine health.’

After laying down these general causes, and this general indication, the Doctor proceeds to the particular species of consumptions. His practice seems upon the whole to be founded in nature and experience. The method of cure for each consumptive complaint is well described. And with regard to theory, he confutes with a good deal of strength the supposed acidity of the juices as the cause of these disorders. It is a matter of no consequence to the reader, that our author has displayed no great share of classical purity in his Latin formula's ; even his parade and prolixity deserve excuse on account of some useful practical hints suggested,

FOREIGN ARTICLES.

ART. XIII. *Histoire des Mathematiques*, par M. Montucla de l'Academie Royale de Sciences et Belles Lettres de Prusse. 2 Vols. 4to. Seyffert.

THERE never appeared an undertaking of more extensive utility, of greater hazard and difficulty, than this under consideration. The geometrician who would strike into unfrequented paths, and improve science by new discoveries, must first be perfectly informed of the history of mathematics, to prevent his wasting labour upon subjects already sufficiently understood; instances of which have often occurred. In compiling a distinct history of the rise and progress of geometry, and the dependent sciences, which may be deemed its genuine offspring, the clearest ideas must be conveyed in detail upon every particular of a subject, scarce any of which can be touched without obscurity, except by the hand of a master. The writer must assign every branch its determinate limits, every author his own proper discovery; he must pursue every invention from the first hints suggested to its absolute completion; he must divest himself of all prejudice in favour of notions and systems, to exhibit a faithful account of the obligations science owes to each; he must be perfectly acquainted with the works of all the geometricians and philosophers, in a word, with the circle of science, and able to communicate the essence, cleared from all the lumber and impurity of knowledge. A work agreeable to this idea would be a beautiful history of the human intellect, comprehending all those subjects which require the utmost efforts of wit and genius; but whether the execution of such a project, in its full extent, does not exceed the abilities of any individual, must be submitted to trial and experiment. Certain we are, it will require the finest talents, the deepest erudition, and most indefatigable industry; we shall see, in course of our Review, how far M. Montucla has succeeded.

He begins his history with the most remote origin of mathematics, and pursues its progress through antiquity, as far as he is authorized by sufficient documents, every where applying the test of criticism to ascertain truth, and remove obscurity; offering probable conjectures where facts are deficient. Thence he proceeds to the progress of mathematics in particular countries, marking the discoveries peculiar to each, and the hints for further improvement suggested by individuals, reciting at the same time the material incidents in the lives of the most celebrated

brated mathematicians. This indeed is an object of mere curiosity; we are eager to know the particular circumstances of persons renowned for their genius and services to mankind. What deserves more attention, is a point in which, perhaps, our author will appear less successful; we mean his explanation of the principles of all the different theories that compose the mathematical system. Here we imagine we shall be able to shew him defective, as a mathematician and historian, misled by attachment, and biassed by prejudice; this, however, we shall defer to our next Number.

In prosecution of his design, our author, after a general discourse on the object, the nature, and advantages of the mathematics, enlarges particularly on the culture of this science in Greece, from the earliest ages to the ruin of the Grecian empire. This long interval he has divided into periods, the first comprehending the state of geometry from the most remote times, to the days of Thales; the next, from the age of that philosopher to the foundation of the Alexandrian school; the third, from thence to the christian æra; and the fourth, from that epoch to the dissolution of the Constantinopolitan empire.

In the second part we have a detail of the mathematical knowledge of the eastern nations, the Chinese, Arabians, and others, among whom it flourished, during that long period in which Europe was sunk in barbarism and ignorance. Under this period nothing very instructive appears. The Arabians were mere translators of Greek authors, at least they were but commentators, and the Chinese were still inferior.

The third part contains the revival and progress of geometry and mathematics, in all its parts, among the western nations, down to the beginning of the seventeenth century. There the fourth part, which engrosses the whole of the second volume, commences. This period alone contains a greater variety of important discoveries than all the preceding; it was therefore necessary to allow more room, in order to be particular and explicit. M. Montucla promises another volume, which shall include the mathematical history of the present times, should the parts already published, as we doubt not they will, meet with the public indulgence. His design is noble, and the execution masterly, notwithstanding a few blemishes unavoidable in a work of such extent and difficulty. What a number of books, on the most abstracted subjects must have been carefully read, abridged, and compared with others upon the same topics! Not only a profound knowledge in geometry, algebra, mechanics, astronomy, optics, pneumatics, acoustics,

or the doctrine of sounds, with the infinity of particulars couch-
ed under each of these general divisions, was necessary, but a
true historical precision of method, thought and expression,
without which the whole would be unintelligible. There can-
not be a more distinguishing criterion of abilities, than to talk
clearly in common language upon those points which have al-
ways required the help of numbers and lines to make them un-
derstood. Geometry excludes all from entering her temple,
who have not been initiated in the mysteries; it is a fairy land,
in which none can move a step securely who are not themselves
enchanted. The slightest accident discovers the impostor; even
good sense, as in every other science, will not bear him out
here without genuine knowledge. Moreri, among a number
of other persons famed for their erudition, has afforded an in-
stance, how dangerous it is to touch even the skirts of mathe-
matics with unhallowed hands. Speaking of a philosopher
who made curious observations on the obliquity of the ecliptic,
he says, he made excellent remarks on the oblique figure of the
zodiac. Had he touched upon pure geometry, how much more
would he have betrayed his ignorance? Our Cyclopædias, Dic-
tionaries of arts and sciences, astronomical and mathematical
Dictionaries are filled with mistakes, that prove the compilers mere
blundering copyists. Even Vossius, whose learning stands univer-
sally acknowledged, has committed the most ridiculous mistakes
in his book, intitled *De Scientiis Mathematicis*. It is, indeed, with-
out true geometrical knowledge, impossible to write a single ori-
ginal line in geometry, or to comprehend a syllable of the sublimer
doctrines in mathematics. What idea can common understand-
ings form of transcendental curves, construction and resolution
of equations, quadrature and rectification of curves, the rela-
tion of abstract magnitudes, the method of tangents, measure
of solids and surfaces, with a thousand other particulars? A
by-stander, unacquainted with the game, would as easily com-
prehend the meaning of spades, king of hearts in quadrille, as
a man of plain sense penetrate into the meaning of those terms
peculiar to the science.

We shall touch upon a few particulars of the ancient geome-
try, in order that we may bestow our whole attention upon the
discoveries of the last century, when we come to examine the
second volume of this performance, in the sequel to the present
article. In our author's account of the Greek mathematicians,
he is sensible, concise, and more distinct than any former
writer we have perused. The physical system of Democritus is
explained with peculiar elegance and perspicuity in a very small
compass. He is no less accurate in his review of the ancient
astro-

astronomy, a distinct knowledge of which reflects the greatest honour on modern genius.

M. Montucla defines very clearly the terms synthesis and analysis, shewing from thence the absurdity of a common assertion, that the latter method of demonstration owes its existence to modern improvement. The truth is, modern writers call all operations analytical, where the assistance of algebra is required, or borrowed; though, in fact, a demonstration may be synthetical, and the operation algebraical, and on the contrary analytical, where the reasoning is purely geometrical. Sir Isaac Newton's works afford instances of the former, Euclid and Archimedes, even Apollonius himself, of the latter. Our author very justly blames the indiscriminate use of algebraical calculation in modern geometry. Certain it is, that such demonstration is ever less satisfactory to the mind, because the steps cannot be clearly traced, and the smallest error obliges the operator to recur to the first stating of the problem. It is however in many cases extremely useful, sometimes essential, and always concise.

The history of the first discovery of conic sections, geometric loci, the duplications of the cube, and of mixed mathematics among the Greeks, forms a curious and entertaining part of this work; but it would be impossible to convey distinct ideas to the reader in the compass of an article. The vast discoveries of Archimedes, the finest, the most extensive, and creative genius of antiquity, obscured the lustre of every preceding geometrician. His writings on the sphere and cylinder, his mensuration of the circle, his book on conoids and spheroides, his quadrature of the parabola, and demonstration of the properties of spirals, particularly those very acute demonstrations respecting the tangent of a spiral, so frequently mentioned, and so little understood, his *Arenarius*, which may be called the finest treatise ever written upon progression; his vast discoveries in mechanics, of which he was really the creator, the astonishing length to which he carried statics and hydrostatics; and, lastly, his fine optical experiments, if we can rely on the testimony of Dion, Diodorus Siculus, Heron, Pappus, and Anthemius, quoted by Zonaras and Tzetzes, are all too well known to the learned to require any particular comment. We can hardly deny our assent to the assertions concerning his burning speculum, when we see the instrument particularly, though unphilosophically described by Tzetzes:

“Cum

"Cum autem Marcellus removisset illas (naves) ad iactum arcus,

Educens quod speculum fabricavit senex,

A distantia autem commemorati speculi

Parva ejus modi specilla cum posuisset angulis quadruple

Quæ movebantur scamis et quibusdam γυνυλμασις

Medium illud possuit radiorum solis.

Refractis (reflexis) deinceps in hoc radius

Exarsio sublata est formidabilis ignita navibus, &c."

Untechnical as this description may appear, it sufficiently evinces that Tzetzes had an idea of that experiment lately improved by M. Buffon, which, by multiplying the glasses to the number of 400, could reflect the rays to a focus that melted lead at the distance of near fifty yards. We have seen this experiment performed upon still more simple principles, and a stronger focus made at a much greater distance, only by placing the glasses in such a position, that all the original rays, as far as the equality and smoothness of the surface will admit, were preserved, and combined to the rays refracted through mediums of different densities, afterwards reflected by a plane to the same focus. We doubt not but the inventor of this pretty, and perhaps useful instrument, will be induced to publish it, as soon as leisure and conveniency will permit. Should it ever be converted to pernicious purposes, and the destruction of the human species, that will not be his fault, who proposes nothing more than a philosophical discovery. It is astonishing that this experiment should have escaped the great Newton, when he touches expressly upon the subject in one of his queries.

In enumerating the works, the writings, and the commentators of Apollonius the geometrician, M. Montucla omits his best ancient scholiast; we mean Claudius Ricardus, a jesuit, who published, as early as the year 1643, when the privilege was granted by Philip IV. at Brussels, an exceeding good Latin edition of four books of the conic sections. This is not the only mistake committed in the account of Apollonius. Except this writer, Hipparchus and Ptolemy, no other considerable mathematician appeared, until the days of Diophantes, the celebrated inventor, as some writers suppose, of algebra. He flourished about 365 years after the Christian æra, under the emperor Julian. We cannot accede to the opinion, that any traces of the algebraic notation is discoverable in the few remaining works of this geometrician, notwithstanding this has been asserted by the ingenious

ingenious blind Lucasian professor, and others. Diophantus, indeed, solves problems by a peculiar method, in which he uses a species of notation, calling the number sought (x) the power or square δ^2 , the cube α^3 , &c. He would seem even to be acquainted with the resolution of equations of the second degree, and their application to geometry; but this notion, upon a more accurate examination, will vanish, and all the arguments of M. Montucla, however ingenious, appear founded upon false principles. We shall take an opportunity of enlarging upon this subject.

With respect to Pappus, he was a good geometrician, an useful intelligent writer; but as an original author, deserves no regard. Many of the Arabian mathematicians merit the same character: they were good scholiasts and commentators; they have preserved precious fragments of antiquity from the wreck of time, but contributed little to the progress of geometry, though they were accessory to its renewal. This far, and for the method of algebra, we owe the greatest obligations to the Arabians: it was imported into Europe by Leonardo de Pisa; improved by Regiomontanus to an equation of the second degree; farther advanced by Bombilli, Wallis, and Vieta, and almost perfected by Descartes, and the geometricians of the same age.

The volume concludes with the astronomical, nautical, and physical discoveries of Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Galileo, Kepler, Torricelli, and Flavio Givius, the reputed discoverer of the compass, and the properties of the magnet. We shall with pleasure resume the subject in our next Number, and enter upon a closer examination.

ART. XIV. *La Morte d' Abel.* Paris.

THIS poem of five cantos, translated from the German, sufficiently evinces, that the genius of this people is not wholly limited to philosophy, medicine, and the civil law, nor excluded from the fine arts depending on the imagination. The author, M. Gessner, has shewn an admirable flexibility of genius, by successful attempts in different branches of poetry, in all of which he is simple, natural, and elegant. His first essay was a pastoral, translated into French about five years since, where he has beautifully described the sweets, and the innocent amusements of a country life. In the performance before us, he has united three kinds of poetry, the epic, the tragic, and the pastoral. The nature of the subject uncontestably belongs to the former;

former ; the division and interesting manner to the second ; and several exquisite rural descriptions to the last. All the characters have great propriety ; and those of our first parents seem to be drawn from Milton's incomparable portraiture.

We must observe, that M. Gessner has trespassed almost on all the unities : this is a blemish which may excite the severe critic's indignation, but is, with the reader of true taste, absorbed in the superior excellencies of the poet.

ART. XV. *Essais sur divers sujets de Littérature et de Morale, par M. l'Abbé Trublet, Vol. quatrième.*

THE works of the ingenious M. Trublet want no recommendation. They have been bought up with unusual avidity. The volume now published is a valuable addition to his admired miscellanies, in which the author, instead of seeming faint and exhausted by his long course, has acquired fresh vigour, and an accelerated rapidity of motion. Some of these essays were before printed separately in the year 1759 ; others are entirely new, and exceedingly pretty. As a moralist and critic, the abbé equally engages our esteem. His reflections on society, on composition, on French prose and verse with respect to tragedy, on authors, on science, and other particulars, are all ingenious and striking. More sprightly than our deservedly admired Rambler, he is no less judicious, possessing, in a high degree, the happy faculty of placing common objects in a new light. In a word, he is lively, delicate, and ingenious.

Monthly CATALOGUE.

Art. 16. *A most circumstantial Account of that unfortunate young Lady Miss Bell, otherwise Sharpe, who died at Marybone on Saturday Oct. 4. Containing a Series of very extraordinary Facts, which have never yet transpired ; especially her remarkable Relation to Capt. Thomas Holland, of the Manner she came by her Wounds ; to whom (and to whom only) she related all the Particulars of that horrid Transaction. By Heartfree, Author of Two Letters on the same Subject in the Gazetteer. 8vo. Pr. 1s. 6d. Williams,*

THE violence committed on the person of this unhappy lady, is one of the most flagrant outrages ever offered to public justice and humanity. Equity, compassion, and the in-

jured honour of the species, loudly demand the punishment of the brutal perpetrator, whatever may be his circumstances and connexions. Even the suspicion of such villainous barbarity, merits the strictest enquiry, and the proof cannot meet with sufficiently severe and exemplary vengeance. A laudable public spirit, and just resentment of so notorious an insult of the laws of nature, and our country, would seem to be the motives that actuated our writer to this spirited accusation of the supposed offender, and of those who may be deemed accessories to his crime, by their guilty endeavours to skreen him from justice. We cannot affirm, that the charge against Mr. Sutton, as the immediate actor of this tragical scene, or of the apothecary taxed with prevarication upon oath, deserve credit; but we are certain it requires an answer, and explicit discussion of an affair prejudicial to their characters, as long as it remains problematical. With respect to the former gentleman, nothing but a fair and open trial can, in our opinion, re-establish his reputation.

That our readers may not be wholly unacquainted with an incident which ought to be universally known, as the best warning against the consequences of youthful intemperance and debauchery, we shall give a short abstract.—

Miss Bell, born of a reputable and opulent family in the county of Norfolk, unhappily contracted an intimacy with a gentleman of the army, quartered at Aylsham, who insinuating himself into her affections, deceived, ruined, and debauched her. She eloped from her parents, and was for some time concealed by her gallant at Norwich; but her retreat being discovered she was brought home, despised, and avoided by her own sex, deeply afflicted with the contempt shewn her, and at last removed from a scene where her reputation was irretrievable, to London. Here she was placed with a reputable chamber-milliner, and might have lived happily, had she not, by her late misfortune, acquired a taste and passion for intriguing, to gratify which she precipitately eloped from her mistress. Where she immediately went is not known; but it was soon after discovered that she had married a tradesman near Whitechapel, lived with him one night, escaped a third time, and to elude all enquiry assumed a fictitious name. She was next found in the purlieus of St. Ann's, where she commenced or renewed her acquaintance with an actor, unjustly taxed with having first decoyed her from her parents.

From this period she became totally abandoned, and in course of prostitution contracted an acquaintance with the gentleman charged by our author with her death. With him and another young gentleman, more unfortunate than culpable, she spent three days at a bagnio, immersed in the most execrable debauchery.

bauchery and brutality. She was beat, kicked, and abused, as our author asserts, by Mr. Sutton, and at last barbarously stabbed with a penknife in parts which decency oblige us to conceal, in a manner the most barbarous, and for reasons that are not specified. A few days after she died of the wounds, according to our author. That she received dangerous wounds, and the most inhuman usage, appears on undeniable evidence; that Sutton was the perpetrator, rests on the testimony of Miss Young, and her own solemn declarations to captain Holland, a gentleman whose humanity to the unfortunate lady, and pains to bring to a full discovery this dark scene of iniquity, sufficiently speak his character. Captain Holland had repeatedly visited Miss Bell during her illness; he got the clearest information of the case from her own lips, and immediately after her death laid the whole affair before Mr. Justice Fielding, supported by the evidence of her maid. In consequence the body was taken up, and the captain received a summons to attend the inquest; but on the day appointed no coroner appeared. In the evening he received another summons to attend the day following; but on his arrival, was told that the jury was satisfied, and his evidence not wanted. He pressed to be admitted, and that his evidence might be taken, but was denied. Determined however to pursue the dictates of humanity and justice, he wrote to Mr. Sutton, at that time in the *Devizes*, and received the following answer.

‘S I R, *Devizes, October 16, 1760.*

By last post I was favoured with a letter from Capt. Holland, with whom I have not the pleasure to be acquainted; and I must confess I am surprised greatly at the charge laid against me by Miss Bell, to whom I never offered the least injury or affront in my life. The cause of her death I am as ignorant of as the child unborn, and was it the last word I had to say, I would still persist in my innocence. Had I been conscious to myself of being the author of so horrid a crime, I should not have enjoyed one moment's peace of mind; and was it not for an unhappy difference that subsists among a part of our family, I would not have delayed one moment to return to London, in order to clear myself from so infamous and cruel an aspersions, and which, to an innocent person, is of the blackest nature. The letter Miss Bell writ to me I have now by me; she does not make the least mention of my having cut her with a knife, which she certainly would have done, had I been the author. And I can make it plainly appear, that she has often said, and sworn to things when in liquor, which she has absolutely denied the morning following. What credit then can be given

to what such people say? Was I now in London, I could bring people of the first fashion to answer for me. And I defy any person to prove that I ever offered Miss Bell the least insult in my life. How sensibly then a thing of this nature must affect me, I leave you, Sir, to guess. When I return again to London, which I hope will be now soon, I will do myself the pleasure to call on you, when I can explain myself more clearly by word of mouth, than I can by letter. I am with due regard,

Sir, your most humble servant,

WILLY SUTTON.

About the same time he wrote to Mr. Bell, father of the deceased, and received the answer following, with a letter enclosed for Mr. Sutton, both which we shall insert for the satisfaction of the reader.

‘ S I R,

Aylsham, October, 16, 1760.

Yours came to hand but this day, and I am obliged to you for the care towards my poor unfortunate daughter. As to Sutton, I am determined to bring him to the bar for his barbarity and cruelty, if it costs me five thousand pounds. I have enclos’d a letter for Sutton, not knowing how to direct to him, and shall take it as a great favour would you seal it up and deliver it to him yourself.---Your answer what Sutton says by next post, will oblige

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM BELL.

N. B. I shall be obliged to you to let me know, whether or no you be the same captain Holland that used to come to our house. Also please to let me know how to direct to this Sutton. The surgeons that examined the body, I will take care they shall be made easy, and every person that assisted her during her illness.---Excuse errors.’

The enclosed letter was couched in these extraordinary terms.

‘ Mr. Sutton,

S I R,

By many informations that I have had sent me from justice Fielding and many others, you are the villain that gave my daughter two stabs with a penknife in a place called the Os Sacrum, of which wounds she died. Now if you do not immediately make an atonement or retaliation for this your cruelty, I will make you appear at the bar, if it cost me five thousand pounds, or more.---This is all proved against you, and that you was the cause of her death.---It was spoke of at lord O————’s by a nobleman, how that you and Sir W. F. had used

used my daughter extremely ill, and that you ought to be brought to punishment.—You likewise swore, that if ever you saw her again, you would so stab her that she should not live. You see my determination.

Your's

Aylsham, October 16, 1760.

WILLIAM BELL.

Instead of transmitting this letter, the captain very judiciously suppressed it, acquainting Mr. B. with his sentiments respecting the *atonement* and *retaliation* required in his letter; and that the only attonement which could properly be demanded by a parent for the murderer of his child, was the criminal's being brought to public trial. Then he sent a second letter to Mr. Sutton, to which that gentleman answered as follows.

‘ S I R,

Devizes, October 25, 1760.

I am this day favoured with a second letter from you, by which I find you express great surprise that I should (as you say) still persist in my innocence relating to the affair of Miss Bell. This expression (I must confess) is to me very odd, for was I in the least conscious to myself of having committed the heinous crime laid so maliciously to my charge, you could not think me so void of sense to continue in this place in the unconcerned open manner I do at present. Every man has a monitor within him that will inform him when he has done amiss, especially in a case of this nature. This certainly must have been my case, had I been the author of her death. I am much obliged to you, Sir, for your profession of friendship in the letter you writ me, but (thank God) my innocence is sufficient to protect me against those who have so villainously sworn against me. And since matters are come to such a pass, I am determined to see the end of it, let what will be the consequence. I do assure you, Sir, I am by no means deterred at the thoughts of a trial, that being the only means by which I can justify myself. Besides, let my innocence appear ever so clear, it must notwithstanding greatly prejudice me in the opinion of my friends, at having a thing of this nature laid to my charge. The world will possibly be surpris'd at my not coming to town, and perhaps may imagine me guilty, and that I am now secreting myself from justice. I do assure you this affair gives me very little concern; let Mr. Bell's determination be what it will, I have no doubt but my innocence will secure me, and that my friends will support me in bringing to justice the authors of so horrid an accusation. I am, with due regard,

S I R,

Your very humble servant

WILLY SUTTON.

We eagerly wish to see this gentleman perform a promise so essential to his own reputation. Several months have now elapsed, and we do not hear that any measures have been taken to bring on a public inquiry.

Our author makes several sensible reflections on these letters, and the depositions of the surgeons and apothecary who gave their opinion of miss Bell's wounds. The following strictures on the apothecary require that gentleman's attention.

When captain Holland asked him, after he had examined her wounds, whether she had the venereal disorder? his answer was, that he could not take upon him to say she had. On the day after she died, as appears by the coroner's letter, Mr. Blifs applied to the coroner for leave to bury her, as a person who had died of the venereal disease. Was it not most extraordinary, that Mr. Blifs should now take upon him to say what he could not take upon him to say a few days before, although he had then inspected her?—But hear what Mr. Blifs swore before the coroner, as it appears in the pamphlet written by one of the jurymen. On his being asked if the wounds could, in any wise, occasion her death; he answered, “That if she had not had any wounds at all, probably, she would have died; for her death was owing to an inflammatory putrid fever.” What do you say to this Mr. Blifs? Did she die of the venereal disorder, and an inflammatory putrid fever too? I would ask Mr. Blifs another question. Pray if a person had died of the venereal disorder, could it not be perceived by inspecting the body afterwards? I fancy you will, because you must, answer, yes. Why then it is plain she did not die of it; for two of the surgeons, Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Farmer, on being asked the question, after their having inspected the body, swear positively they saw no appearance or symptoms of it.—I therefore call upon you to inform the public, what could lead you to deceive the coroner; I hope not the old proverb, that it is not proper to tell the truth at all times.’

We have enlarged particularly on this pamphlet, because the subject is highly interesting to the public, because the supposed criminal has hitherto escaped justice, and because, though it rapidly attained to a third edition, we have seen no refutation of facts which bear hard on the characters of a great number of individuals.

Art. 17. *The English Theatre: containing twenty Comedies, and twenty Tragedies; being the most valuable Plays which have been acted on the British Stage.* 12mo. 8 Vols. 24s. bound. Lownds.

The title sufficiently indicates the contents of this publication.

Art. 18. *A View of Mr. Kennicott's Method of correcting the Hebrew Text, with three Queries formed thereupon, and humbly submitted to the Consideration of the learned and Christian World.* By George Horne, B. D. Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxon. 8vo. 6d. Rivington.

This gentleman disapproves of Mr. Kennicott's scheme of amending the Hebrew text by a careful collation of manuscripts. As he allows there are corruptions, we could wish he had pointed out a more rational method of restoring the genuine reading.

Art. 19. *Emendationes in Suidam : in quibus plurima loca veterum Græcorum, Sophoclis et Aristophanis, in primis, cum explicantur tum emaculantur.* Scripsit J. Toup, A. M. Ecclesiæ S. Martin, cum Capella de Loo, in Agro Cornubiensi, Rector. 8vo. 3s. sewed. Whifton.

We have here all the vanity, petulance, and conceit of Dr. Bentley, that severe Cantabrigian Aristarchus, without his judgment and erudition. Some of his critical animadversions are however ingenious and sensible, were they not rendered disgusting by that air of confidence the author every where assumes.

Art. 20. *A full and candid Answer to a Pamphlet, entitled, Considerations on the present German War.* 2vo. Price 1s. 6d. Pridden.

We could wish, for the credit of our country, that the pamphlet to which this is a professed answer, had been more clearly refuted. It can afford no satisfaction to a truly British reader to see the measures of the administration demonstrated faulty, weak, and ruinous. It is even acknowledging the truth of all that is asserted, to deny with indecent warmth, with passion instead of argument. We pretend not to vindicate the author of the Considerations in every instance; but we will affirm, that he is not refuted in a single particular by this opponent, whose abilities, indeed, seem very unequal to the task, either imposed, or voluntarily assumed.

Art. 21. *The Conduct of the Ministry impartially examined. And the Pamphlet entitled Considerations on the present German War, refuted from its own Principles.* 8vo. Price 1s. Griffiths.

This writer is more tolerable than the former, because he is more moderate and genteel; but yet falls equally short of the object proposed. The principles of the author of the Consi-

derations, which he has attacked, scarce regard the general design of that gentleman. He has possibly shewn, "that a measure once right, does not necessarily continue to be right;" that "a change of circumstances ought to produce a change of measures;" that "the alliance with Prussia was the only continental alliance at that time in the power of Great Britain:" but he has not refuted the assertions of the Considerer, that a continental ally was by no means necessary; that the quarrel with France can only be advantageously decided by a naval war; that the alliance of his Prussian majesty has gained no solid equivalent for the enormous expence; that he has contributed nothing to the safety of Hanover; in a word, that the electorate would derive greater security from the destruction of the French colonies, than from the numerous armies maintained for its immediate defence. To refute the arguments brought in support of these positions, requires more talent and genius than have yet appeared in the debate.

Art. 22. *A Vindication of the Conduct of the present War, in a Letter to *****.* 8vo. Price 6d. Toulson.

We may safely prefer this to all the answers to the Considerations we have yet perused. It is wrote in a candid dispassionate manner, that at least intitles the author to regard. He sets out with exhibiting a very different prospect of the revenues and strength of France, from what we find in the Considerations. He examines whether our engagements on the continent have, in the least, diverted the attention of the administration from the prosecution of a naval war, or the exertion of British spirit in North America. Were this sufficiently proved, it would, we apprehend, be a clear refutation of the principal argument of the Considerer. But, unfortunately, our author has forgot to take into the account the enormous sums expended in Germany, the prodigious height of power to which our marine might have been raised by a due application of that money, and the consequences which would have resulted from that measure, even with respect to the electorate of Hanover. However, as our author is sensible and intelligent, we shall, for the satisfaction of our readers, quote his estimate of the present state of France.

' I may (says he) without rashness affirm, it is not now to be compared with itself at the time of the accession of Louis le Grand. The expulsion of many hundred thousand protestants, an industrious, rich, and therefore prolifick people, must have deprived the kingdom of a very numerous posterity. The monstrous increase of their armies, with the fatal consequence of

of almost an universal celibacy amongst them, is a gulf equal in size to that of the monastick foundations, devouring the present race of men, and obstructing the succession of another. The amazing losses they have sustained in their wars this last century, both in Germany and Italy, are not reparable under the present constitution of things; and lastly, their refinements and luxury have been carried to such a height, not only at Versailles and Paris, but even in their distant provinces; that not alone the younger sons of great families, but the merchants and mechanics, amongst whom this polite contagion has likewise crept, are deterred from marriage, and consequently from the means of paying in the fruits of it, that debt, every man owes the state where he resides.

‘ That this decrease of people is not visionary, but real, we may appeal to notoriety. I suppose France was never more pressed by a war than the present one; then where are now her 450000 fighting men? where are her sailors that in Lewis the XIVth’s time fought aboard a hundred ships of war? It may be answered, that we have thousands of their sailors in prison, and that their present number of land-forces are sufficient for their purpose: but we know, that, reduced as their navy was before November 1759, they were obliged to force the peasants into that service. We know, that however diminished their armies may be, compared with the flourishing times of Lewis the XIVth, still it is with the greatest difficulty the government can pay and provide for those armies; and were they to resolve the augmentation of them, I am greatly misinformed, or they would be baffled in the enterprize: their revenues would fail them to support the augmentation; and what is more, the augmentation itself is impracticable. The dregs of the people, and the lower artificers, are already swept away by the recruiting serjeant, and the fields are in a manner abandoned: travel through France at this very juncture, and you will see the women not only drive but hold the plough.

‘ The revenues of France have also suffered a considerable diminution within these few years. The king now upon the throne is not a Lewis the XIVth, the idol of the people; a Deodand; a king, who could not ask more than they were willing to grant; a king, who, if I remember rightly, left a debt of above 180 millions sterling behind him, all of which he himself had contracted. His present majesty labours under the disadvantage of having seen one great bankruptcy in the late regent’s time, and having been under the necessity of committing a kind of act of bankruptcy last year himself; that is, though the payment of the interest on the capital be continued,

yet

yet the reimbursements (an annual discharge of part of the capital) were stopt and converted to the current service of the year: these are strokes which must deeply affect credit: the creditor will reasonably suppose, at the ensuing year, his dividends will be in the same danger with his reimbursements, and he will not only demand a round interest, but ample security for all future loans; and thus will government be distressed.

It is very certain, that during the long and peaceable administration of cardinal Fleury, commerce was not only restored, but increased to a most astonishing degree, and the revenue, in consequence, much improved; but never were those channels so dry as at this period: and that the sources of their riches are generally stopt by a ruinous war, is evident both by their breach of faith with their present creditors, and the comparison of their revenues in the last years of queen Ann's wars, made with revenues of the prosperous times of Lewis the XIVth. Various causes may conduce to disable a state: France is not so powerful as she has been, because so many of her inhabitants are impoverished; and Holland is not so able to sustain a war as formerly, though her individuals are richer than ever: the reasoning therefore is not solid, which establishes, that what has been done by any nation, may be done again.'

Art. 23. *Remarks on two Popular Pamphlets, viz. The Considerations on the present German War; and the Full and Candid Answer to the Considerations.* 8vo. Price 1s.

We are perfectly at a loss for the meaning of this scribbler, if any he had in view, besides levying a small tribute on the publick. Upon the whole, he would seem to have inlisted under the banners of the Considerer; for the Full and Candid Answer ought, he says, to have been called a *temporary and abusive Answer*.

Art. 24. *A Letter to a Noble Lord: Wherein it is demonstrated, that all the great and mighty Difficulties in obtaining an honourable and lasting Peace, and reconciling all the jarring and different Interests, are for the most part chimerical and imaginary; provided, only, it be entrusted to the Care and Management of honest Hearts and able Heads.* By an Englishman. 8vo. Price 1s. Kearsly.

This is one of those numerous political funguses reared for the sole purpose of procuring the author a dinner, and a few holiday-pence.

Art.

Art. 25. *The Enchanter; or, Love and Magic. A Musical Drama.* As it is performed at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane. The Music composed by Mr. Smith. 8vo. Price 6d. Tonson.

The well-known hand of a favourite author is discoverable in this performance; though compositions intended for music, must, without its enchanting graces, appear to disadvantage.

Art. 26. *The Earl of Douglas: A Dramatick Essay.* 8vo. Price 1s. Hitch.

The author of this essay, though no first-rate poet, discovers certain seeds of genius, which, if duly cultivated, may one day spring up with vigour, and produce wholesome fruit.

Art. 27. *Thomas and Sally; or, the Sailor's Return. A Musical Entertainment.* As it is performed at the Theatre-Royal in Covent-Garden. The Music composed by Dr. Arne. 8vo. Pr. 1s. Kearsly.

This little performance was not intended for the closet. Assisted by Dr. Arne's genius, it might have passed well enough in the theatre.

Art. 28. *Verses on the Demise of the late King, and the Accession of his present Majesty.* Most humbly addressed and presented to his Majesty, at St. James's. To which is prefixed, an Epistle to the most noble the Marquis of Caernarvon, on the above Occasion. Fol. Price 6d. Doddsley.

Worse lines have appeared to immortalize the memory of our late gracious sovereign.

Art. 29. *A Defence of the Conduct of Barbadoes, during the late Expedition to Martinique and Guadaloupe.* In a Letter to the Right Hon. Gen. Barrington. By a Native, resident in the Island. 8vo. Price 1s. 6d. Doddsley.

In a journal of the expedition to Guadalupe, lately published, the author, captain Gardiner, has indirectly taxed the inhabitants of Barbadoes with shewing a backwardness to that expedition, from motives of private interest. This is a calumny

ny which our author fairly, in our opinion, refutes; proving, that the assembly even passed an act, contrary to the established laws of the island, to promote the publick service; and challenging the captain to make good a single assertion which derogates from the honour, or the publick spirit, of the inhabitants. The subject, we imagine, is not generally interesting; we shall therefore, probably, be excused a minute account of the dispute.

Art. 30. *University-Politicks: or, the Study of a Christian, Gentleman, Scholar, set forth in Three Sermons on the King's Inauguration before the University of Oxford, at St. Mary's Church. By John Burton, D. D. Fellow of Eton College. 8vo. Price 2s. Payne.*

While the absurd custom of obliging a preacher to expatiate for an hour upon a single text continues, we must expect to see discourses from the pulpit filled with learned distinctions, divisions, and explanations; perhaps the text tortured into meanings which bear no connexion with the general scope of the chapter. Our author has avoided this difficulty, by chusing a text so comprehensive as would afford matter for a whole volume of morality. The subject of his discourses is, "That ye study to be quiet, to do your own business;" an admonition which he recommends particularly to the young gentlemen of the university of Oxford, who have sometimes drank deep of the intoxicating streams of politics. In the first discourse the doctor considers the doctrine of his text in a general view, as enforcing the duty of subjects to their governors, in a peaceable submission to their authority. In the second, he proceeds to explain the duty of the members of the university, as gentlemen and scholars. The doctor very sagely observes, that to be quiet, in the apostle's meaning, is not to be understood in a physical sense, as enjoining absolute rest and inactivity. It is probable the doctor had some reason for exhibiting this curious negative definition of *quiet*, as too many of the youth in our learned seminaries would seem to plead the apostle's authority for that total state of inactivity in which they remain, from their matriculation until they are buried in oblivion in country curacies. Here, in the same discourse, Dr. Burton corroborates the authority of Scripture by the longest classical quotation we ever behold in a sermon; no less than twelve thundering lines from the divine Homer. But we have been long acquainted with his passion for the Greek; and are only surprised, that his whole discourse is not written in that language, which we verily think

he

he understands better than he does his mother-tongue. The third discourse is a sequel to the former, in which the words of the text are particularly applied to the young gentlemen, as students and scholars. We shall only observe, that the performance is well enough adapted to circumstances: but it might, without injury, be withheld from the publick.

Art. 31. *Seasonable Advice to the Electors of Members of Parliament at the ensuing General Election. Addressed to the Free and Independent Electors of the Kingdom of Ireland in general, to those of the City of Dublin in particular. By Charles Lucas. 8vo. Price 1s. 6d. Davies.*

Once more the Hibernian Demosthenes stands up in defence of freedom, to rouse, impel, and animate his ungrateful countrymen to "stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free;" and possibly, like other patriots, to acquire by popularity a seat in that senate, in which he will ever afterwards remain a silent cypher.

Art. 32. *A Supplement to the Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gent. Serving to elucidate that Work. By the Author of Yorick's Meditations. 8vo. Pr. 1s. 6d.*

We are sorry that Yorick should so precipitately forfeit the degree of reputation acquired by his Meditations, by publishing a supplement, equally destitute of wit, humour, sense, and erudition.

Art. 33. *Two Dialogues on the Man-Trade. 8vo. Pr. 1s. Waugh.*

The apparent intention of this pamphlet is to demonstrate what no man ever doubted, that it is inhuman, unjust, and a violence against the laws of nature, to steal, kidnap, buy, sell, and traffic in our own species of a different complexion, as if they were cattle, or any other transferable commodity; the real design would seem to be an invective against the slave-trade from private purposes. The dialogue is badly conducted, and the arguments trite and hackneyed.

Art. 34. *An Essay on the Oestrus, or Enthusiasm of Orpheus. 8vo. Pr. 6d. Crowle in Norwich.*

We must acknowledge we are not able to fathom the profundity of this little essay, which certainly he proposed calling *Ænigma Ordovicum*.

Art. 35. *An Exhortatory Address to the Brethren in the Faith of Christ, occasioned by a remarkable Letter from Mr. Foote to the Rev. Author of Christian and Critical Remarks on the Minor. With a serious Word or two on the present melancholy Occasion. By a Minister of the Church of Christ.* 8vo. Pr. 4d. Keith.

We are out of all patience at the frequent repetition of those silly, idle, and fanatic exhortations.

Art. 36. *Memoirs of the Life of a modern Saint. Containing his Adventures in England, Scotland, and America.* 8vo. Pr. 2s. Ranger.

A costive attempt to throw ridicule upon the great apostle of the Tabernacle.

Art. 37. *The Adventures of Sylvia Hughes. Written by Herself.* 12mo. Pr. 3s. Williams.

As novels go, the Adventures of Sylvia Hughes may be thought tolerable: as that kind of writing once stood, they would be deemed detestable.

Art. 38. *The Works of the celebrated Mrs. Centlivre. Containing, Perjur'd Husband; Beaux's Duel; Gamester; Bassett Table; Love at a Venture; Love's Contrivance; Busy Body; Marplot in Lisbon; Platonic Lady; Perplex'd Lovers; Cruel Gift; Wonder, a Woman keeps a Secret; Man's Bewitch'd; Gotham Election; Wife well Managed; a Bickerstaff's Burying; Bold stroke for a Wife; Artifice; Stolen Heiress. With a new Account of her Life. In three Volumes.* 12mo. Pr. 10s. 6d. Knapton.

The public is already sufficiently sensible of the merit of this lady as a dramatic writer. All her comedies display a fertility of invention for plot, intrigue, and stratagem. It is sufficient that we are here favoured with a fair and complete edition of those plays, which will always be seen with satisfaction.

Art. 39. *Polly Honeycombe, a Dramatic Novel of one Act. As it is acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane.* 8vo. Pr. 1s. Becket.

The author of this little piece has obviated all criticism, by asserting in his preface that he voluntarily committed those errors, which might otherways incur censure. His design is laudable.

Art.

Art. 40. *The Proceedings of a general Court-Martial held at Maidstone in Kent, on Wednesday the 17th, and continued by several Adjournments to Friday 27th of September 1760, upon the Trial of Lieutenant William Hill of the first Battalion of the Surry Militia: and of a general Court-Martial, held at Maidstone aforesaid, on Saturday the 28th, and continued by Adjournment to Monday the 30th of September, 1760, upon the Trial of Ensign William Hill of the said Battalion of Surry Militia. Published by Authority.* 8vo. Pr. 1s. 6d. Woodgate.

The first of these gentlemen, charged with having aspersed the character of a superior officer, was sentenced to ask his pardon: the other accused of associating, drinking, and lying with the common soldiers, in a manner unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, was condemned to ask pardon at the head of the battalion. What can we expect from raising to the rank of gentlemen such numbers of persons, as were by birth and education intended for hewers of wood, and drawers of water.

Art. 41. *Various Particulars relative to the Demise of the Crown.* 8vo. Pr. 1s. Owen.

This pamphlet, by being printed at the law-press, seems calculated only for the information of the gentlemen of that profession; but upon perusal we think it may be so far of use to the generality of readers, that we venture to recommend it to every one who is not already well acquainted with the matters it treats of.

Art. 42. *Mons Catharina, Prope Wintoniam. Poema.* 4to. Pr. 6 d. Doddsley.

In this little poem the reader of taste will be charmed with beautiful description and classical elegance. A few lines will serve for a specimen.

At pater Ichinus viridantes, vallibus imis,
Quà reficit salices, subductæ inagine ripæ,
Pars vegetos nudant artus, et flumina saltu
Summa petunt: jamque alternis placidum ictibus æquor
In numerum, pedibusque secant, et remige plantâ;
Jamque ipso penitus merguntur gurgite, prono
Corpore, spumantemque undam sub vertice torquent
Præcipites, saliuntque lacu, luduntque lavando.
Protinus emerfis, nova gratia crihibus udis
Nascitur, atque oculis subito micat acribus ignis
Lætior, impubesque genæ formosius ardent.

Art.

Art. 43. *The Orations of Demosthenes, on Occasions of Public Deliberation, Translated into English; with Notes. To which is added, the Oration of Dinarchus against Demosthenes. By Dr. T. Leland. Vol. II. 4to. Pr. 10s. 6d. Johnston.*

The publick cannot sufficiently acknowledge the obligation due to this spirited and judicious translator of the finest author of antiquity; the writer best adapted to the liberty of our happy constitution. The critics have already passed judgment upon the doctor's merit as a translator; we have ourselves joined in the publick applause, and recommended the continuance of his useful labours. As an original writer and critic, the doctor appears to still more advantage. His preface is elegant, nervous, and masterly; and his introduction, prefixed to each oration, demonstrative of true critical sagacity, taste, and sensibility.

Art. 44. *City Latin, or critical and political Remarks on the Latin Inscription on laying the first Stone of the intended new Bridge at Black-Fryars. Proving almost every Word, and every Letter, of it to be erroneous, and contrary to the Practice of both Ancients and Moderns in this Kind of Writing: Interspersed with curious Reflections on Antiques and Antiquity. With a Plan or Pattern for a new Inscription. Dedicated to the Venerable Society of Antiquaries. By the Rev. Busby Birch, L.L.D. F.R.S. F.A.S. F.G.C. and M.S.E.A.M.G. i. e. Member of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. The second Edition, with Additions and Corrections. 8vo. Pr. 1s. Stevens.*

There never appeared more waggery and genuine humour than in this little pamphlet, which it is impossible to read without violent fits of laughter. After several exceedingly ludicrous and just remarks on different expressions on the inscriptions, our author comes to the proper names, on which he lavishes a profusion of wit. What a happy talent is this of striking out innocent amusement from the most insipid subjects!

CHAS
GALT

I N D E X.

A.

- A** *Drian*, his character 271
Akenfide, Dr. his Oratio
 anniversaria, &c. remarks on 157
Anecdote du sejour du roi, &c.
 recommended 149
Antoninus, his character 274
Apologetical oration, &c. by John
 Asgill, Esq; approved of 80
 ——— answer to, censured 80
Apology for the servants, &c.
 approbation of, and speci-
 men 77
Army, humorous reflections on 452
 ——— observation on prefer-
 ments in the 487
Aurelius, some account of 277,
 279
Autumnal dysentery, an essay
 on, &c. quotation of, with
 remarks 111

B.

- Bagnigge* Wells, an experimen-
 tal enquiry concerning, &c.
 by J. Bevis, M. D. extracts
 of, with remarks 204
Balm of Gilead, an essay upon
 its virtues, &c. ridiculed 238
Barbadoes, defence of the con-
 duct of, &c. remarks on 483
Batting, J. surgeon, his chirur-
 gical facts relating to wounds
 and contusions of the head,
 &c. quotations of, and re-
 commendation 257
 Vol. X.

- Beaver* described 344
Bell, Miss, her tragical case 473
Blackstone, W. Esq; his treatise
 on the law of descents in fee-
 simple, recommended 326

C.

- Canadia*, a Latin ode; censured 239
Canadians, an account of 348,
 353
Canine madness, treatise on, by
 R. James, M. D. extracts
 of, with remarks 427
Castile, the kingdom of, its
 history 81, 161
Celtic language, some account
 of 318, 388
Centlivre, Mrs. her works; ap-
 proved of 486
Charlevoix's journal of a voy-
 age to North America; spe-
 cimens of, and recommenda-
 tion 341
Chirurgical pharmacy, theory
 and practice of, &c. quota-
 tions of, with remarks 446
Chronicle of the war between
 the Felicianites, the Gallia-
 nites, &c. remarks on 79
City Latin, &c. humorous 488
Clergy ironically described 72
 ——— their constant resi-
 dence upon their livings
 shewn to be absolutely ne-
 cessary, &c. remarks on 74
Coffee-house, or fair fugitive;
 character of 241
 K k Column

I N D E X.

- Column* of attack described 364
Comment on an extraordinary letter from Ireland, &c. ridiculed 407
Commodus, some account of 279
Companion to the guide, &c. character of 80
Compleat militia-man; ridiculed 405
Conduct of the ministry impartially examined; remarks on 479
Considerations on the present German war; the design of, with observations 403
 — full and candid answer to; remarks on 479
Consumptions, a practical treatise on, by J. Stephens, M. D. specimens of, with observations 465
Crevier's history of the Roman emperors, vols. VII. and VIII. extracts of, and character 262, 436
Crown, various particulars relative to the demise of; recommended 487
- D.
- Demosthenes's* orations on occasion of public deliberation, &c. by Dr. T. Leland, vol. II. applauded 488
Dialogue between the gallows and a free-thinker; an account of 79
 — (satirical) between the celebrated Mr. F—— te and Dr. Squintum; character of 322
Dialogues (two) on the man-trade; intention of, and character 485
Did you ever see such damned stuff? censured 157
- Dissertatio* juridica inauguralis &c. a Jacobo Copes van Haffelt; applauded 314
Distortions of the human body, dissertation on a new method of reducing all sorts of, &c. ridiculed 239
Douglas (the earl of) a dramatic essay; approved of 483
Dramatic poetry, critical essays on, by M. de Voltaire; recommended 430
- E.
- Emendationes* in Suidam; censured 479
Encaustick painting, according to count Caylus, &c. remarks on 26
Enchanter, or love and magic, &c. approved of 483
Enfant du diable, of Canada, described 347
England, the parliamentary and constitutional history of, vol. XXII. quotations of, with approbation 49
 — comparative view of the nominal value of silver there, and in France 246
English theatre; recommended 478
Enthusiasm, specimens of 207
Erasmus, his life, vol. II. extracts of, with remarks 101
Erse poetry, specimens of, with remarks 28
Escurial, description of, by G. Thompson; quotations of, with observations 224
Essais sur divers sujets, par M. Trublet; recommended 473
Essay, by R. Davies, M. D. to promote the experimental analysis of the human blood; remarks on 406
Essay

I N D E X.

- Essay* on the oestrum or enthusiasm of Orpheus ; a
W——h riddle 485
Exhortatory address to the brethren, &c. irksome 486
- F.
- Fables* from *Æsop*, &c. judiciously collected 240
Farmer's complete guide, &c. remarks on 153
Fevers, general cautions in the cure of, by the Rev. G. Etherington, L. L. B. character of, and extracts 137
—— animadversions on the increase of, &c. censured 240
—— an essay on, by D. D'Escherney, M. D. ridiculed 323
Flora Britannica, by Dr. Hill ; remarks on 302
Foundling hospital, an historical account of ; heads of, and character 44
France, the state of 58, 480
—— history of 330, 409
Funeral oration for the late king ; remarks on 402
- G.
- Garaenars* kalendar ; recommended 76
Garter, ceremony of installing the knights of 309
Gentleman's practical farrier, &c. ridiculed 326
Gin and rum, short animadversions on the difference set up between, &c. reflections on 74
Gout, an essay on, by Dr. D'Escherney ; ridiculed 325
Grandison, Sir Charles, spiritualized ; recommended 79
- Great Britain*, its state, and constitution 58, 64
Great news from hell ; remarks on 328
Gun-shot wounds, the method of treating, by J. Ranby, principal serjeant-surgeon, &c. a short account of 244
- H.
- Harmonics*, by R. Smith, D. D. the heads of this approved performance 249
Hebrew text of the Old Testament considered, by Ben. Kennicott, M. A. remarks on, with extracts 178
—— view of the above, by G. Horne, B. D. remark on 479
Hemlock, an essay on its medicinal nature ; observations on, with quotations 122
Hervey, the Rev. James, his letters ; specimens of, with remarks 182
Higbland poetry ; extracts of, with remarks 28
Hill, Dr. John, his *Flora* Britannica ; remarks on 302
Histoire de la republique de Venise, &c. par M. Laugier ; character of 67
—— de Démélé du pape Paul V. avec la republique de Venise, par le P. Paul ; recommended 394
—— de l'empire du Russie sous Pierre le Grand ; remarks on 397
—— des mathematiques, par M. Montucla ; the heads of, with remarks 467
History (universal) modern part, vols. XIX. XX. XXI. XXII. XXIII. and XXIV. quotations

I N D E X.

- from, with remarks,
 and character 1, 81, 161,
 ————— 329, 409
History of the present war; cen-
 sured 157
 ————— of Frederick the for-
 fake; the plan of, with
 quotations, and recommen-
 dation 280
 ————— of Gustavus Ericson;
 extracts of, and character
 372
 ————— of the proceedings in the
 case of Margaret, &c. speci-
 mens of, and character 451
Human nature delineated; quo-
 tations of, and character 368
 ————— I. to wit —
Impostors detected; censured
 405
Institutes of health; extracts
 of, with reflections 455
Institutions politiques; recom-
 mended 69, 144
Juvenal compared with *Perfius*
 270
 ————— K.
King's evil, an essay on the na-
 ture, &c. cure of, &c. ridi-
 culed 24
 ————— L.
La Caffée; plan of 153
La Lais philosophe; censured
 396
La morte d'Abel; recom-
 mended 472
L'Anti-Sans-Souci, &c. remarks
 on 395
Law of nations, by M. Vat-
 tel; extracts of, with re-
 marks, and approbation 61,
 90
Le Castoyement, &c. composé
 dans le troisieme siecle: an
 account of, and specimen
 318
L'Europe vivante & mourante,
 &c. recommended 68
Le livre de quatre couleurs; some
 account of 152
Le nouveau spectateur; cha-
 racter of 318
Letter to Sir Thomas Chitty;
 purport of, and character 41
 ————— to the Rev. E. Law, cha-
 racter of, with a remark 76
 ————— from the manager of the
 theatre in Tottenham-court;
 its character 238
 ————— to Mr. George Aylett;
 ridiculed 242
 ————— reply to; recommended
 242
 ————— to an honourable brig-
 adier-general, &c. animad-
 versions on 243
 ————— refutation of; censured
 321
 ————— to Mr. Foote; remarks
 on 322
 ————— from an officer to his
 friend, upon the methods of
 training infantry, &c. re-
 marks on, with quotations
 337
 ————— to David Garrick, Esq;
 censured 402
 ————— to Mr. Foote; ridiculed
 408
 ————— to a noble lord; censured
 482
Letters from the marchioness
 de Sévigné, vols. III. and
 IV. recommended 298
 ————— (eight) to his grace —
 duke of —, upon vails-giv-
 ing; approved of 406
 ————— Parisiennes; recom-
 mended 236
 ————— Recueil de, pour servir
 d'eclaircissement a l'histoire
 militaire du regne de Louis
 XIV.

I N D E X.

- XIV. summary of, and re-commendation 317
Lex coronatoria; remarks on 386
Life of count Bruhl; animad-versions on 434
 — of John Carteret Pil-kington; recommended 461
 — and opinion of Jeremiah Kunastrokus; censured 79
Liver, an account of the suppu-ration of 258
Lives of the principal reform-ers; plan of, and character (75)
Living christianity delineated; extracts from, with remarks 207
London and its environs de-scribed; an account of, with extracts, and recommenda-tion 303
Longitude, proposal of a new method for finding, by W. Jones, M. D. ridiculed 75
Love elegies; character of, and specimens (245)
Lucas, Charles, his seasonable advice, &c. reflections on 485
Luxemburgh, marechal, some anecdotes of 317
 M.
Malta, described 1
Martial, some anecdotes of 270
Medea to Jason; censured 159
Memoire sur la decouvertes, &c. par Hannon amiral de Car-thage, par M. Bougainville; summary of, and recommen-dation 315
Memoirs of miss Nancy D—n; censured 327
 — sur le langue Celtique, par M. Bullet; plan of, with remarks 388
Memoirs of the revolution in Ben-gal, 1757; with observa-tions 454
 — of a modern saint; co-stively ludicrous 486
Methodists, a friendly and com-passionate address to all se-rious, &c. by A. Jephson, A. B. recommended 243
Military essay, &c. extracts from, with recommendation 421
 — operations of the D. of Cumberland and M. Saxe in 1747; remarks on, cha-racter of, with quotations, 30
Militia of Norfolk, plan of dis-cipline for, part III. extracts of, with remarks 363
Militia-bill, the expediency of a new, &c. an hackneyed piece 408
Minor, a comedy; character of 69
 — christian and critical re-marks on; short account of 238
Modern honour; character of, and specimen 72
Monody on the death of the late king; ridiculed 327
Mons Catharinæ, prope Winto-niam; recommended 487
Moore, Mr. his sea-piece. &c. censured 78
Moral philosophy, sketch of, by J. Taylor, D. D. character of 158
Music, its powerful effects 249
 N.
Navigation, the rudiments of, by M. Murray; summary of, and recommendation 203
Nerva,

INDEX.

- Nerva*, his character 263
Newfoundland, some account of 351
O.
Ode to the muses; character and quotations of 246
Oeuvres de philosophe de Sans-Souci, 2d partie; remarks on, with a specimen 151
Orocomo, a surprising American quadruped, described 222
Ovid's metamorphoses epitomized, &c. recommended 385
P.
Paraguay, relation of the missions there, &c. extracts of and approbation 210
Paraphrase on the acts of the apostles, &c. remarks on 408
Parnassus, the tears and triumph of; approved of 407
Parry, Richard, D. D. his defence of the bishop of London's interpretation of a noted text, &c. remarks on 327
Place, the voice of; observations on, with extracts 57
Peacock, James, his first pastoral of Virgil, &c. censured 159
Pelham, Mr. his character 192
Perfius compared with Juvenal 271
Peter the Great, some account of 397
Philosophical transactions, vol. LI. part I. remarks on, with a candid advice 20
Plato, synopsis of his works, by F. Sydenham; remarks on, with quotations 194
Plato, remarks on his life and writings; specimens of, with remarks 357
Pliny the younger, his character 266
Poem on the late king; censured 408
Poetical epistle to Mr. S. Johnson, by Mr. Murphy; reflections on 319
Politician, the necessary qualifications of 145
Polly Honeycombe; uncensurable 486
Portugal, an account of the surprising revolution there 171
Q.
Quebec, a poetical essay; approved of 79
R.
Rake of taste; censured 327
Ranger's progress; character of 121
Rational religion distinguished from that which is enthusiastic; censured 328
Recherches sur quelques evanemens qui concernent l'histoire de rois Grecs de la Bactriene, &c. recommended 392
Remarks on two popular pamphlets; censured 482
Retired penitent; character of 158
Reviewers irksome task 161
Romaine, Mr. his twelve discourses upon the law and gospel; remarks on, with quotations 312
Romance

I N D E X

- Romance of a day, &c.* approved of 241
- S.* 214
- Salique law, its origin* 330
- Scandal at Tunbridge-Wells, &c.* remark on 408
- Sea water, dissertation on its uses; recommended* 237
- Semiramis, a tragedy; remarks on, with extracts* 155
- Sentiments and advice of Thomas Truman; character of* 407
- Sermon preached by P. Cuming, D. D. remarks on* 328
- on the death of George II. by T. Francklin; character of 406
- Servants, some hints on* 77, 79, 463
- Shakespeare, an epistle, &c.* approved of 408
- Silver coin in England and France, a comparative view of the nominal value of, &c.* remarks on 246
- Silvius Italicus, some account of* 269
- Small-pox, an essay on, by Dr. D'Escherney* 325
- Spain, the history of* 81, 161
- Stirn, Mr. a circumstantial account of, &c.* remark on 322
- Sylvia Hughes's adventures; remark on* 486
- T.
- Tacitus, some anecdotes of* 268
- Theatre, in France, England, and Italy, an essay on, &c.* quotations of, and character 134
- Thomas and Sally; remark on* 483
- Tindal, Mr. N. his continuation of Mr. Rapin's History of England; specimens of, with remarks* 186
- Tragedy (ancient) a dissertation on, by Dr. Franklin; heads of, with extracts, and remarks* 34
- Trajan, his character* 264
- Tristram Shandy, life and opinions of, vol. III. condemned* 237
- supplement to; regretted 485
- Trusses, their usefulness in ruptures* 244
- Turenne, marechal, some account of* 299, 317
- U.
- Unfortunate mother's advice to her absent daughter; recommended* 401
- Universal bible; recommended* 323
- University politicks; heads of, with observations* 484
- V.
- Vails-giving, remarks on* 406, 407
- Various prospects of mankind, nature, and providence; an account of, with extracts, and approbation* 290
- Verses addressed to the king; approved of* 406
- on the death of the late king; uncensored 483
- Verus,*

INDEX.

Verus, his character 277
Vindication of the conduct of
the present war; remarks
on, and quotation from 480
Vues politiques sur le com-
merce; remarks on 235

W.

Wallace, G. advocate, his sy-
stem of the principles of the
laws of Scotland, vol. I. spe-
cimen of, and recommen-
dation of 118

War, an heroic poem; uncen-
sured 322
Windsor palace described 304
Woffington, Mrs. Margaret, mo-
nody to her memory; cha-
racter and specimen of 160
World lost and regained by
love, &c. an ingenious per-
formance 240

Y.

York's meditations, &c. appro-
bation of, and specimen 70

